

## Why Participate?

Participating schools can:

- Get recognized nationally and earn monetary awards!

Gold Award of Distinction	\$2,000
Gold Award	\$1,500
Silver Award	\$1,000
Bronze Award	\$500

- Build school spirit and cooperation by proudly displaying the HealthierUS banner and plaque as a symbol of their school's achievement.
- Be a leader in efforts to end childhood obesity. The HUSSC: SL helps you form a school team and learn from what's worked at other schools.



## How Can I Apply?

For more information, the application, success stories, and other resources, visit the Team Nutrition Web site: <http://teamnutrition.usda.gov> and click on HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms.

For additional information, you may also contact your State Child Nutrition Agency.

State Agency Contact Information

“This recognition complements the district’s commitment not only to academic growth, but also to enhancing the quality of life through nutrition and physical activity.”

*Nutrition Director Cheryl Dickman at Howard-Winneshiek Community School District in Cresco, Iowa (5 Gold Awards, April 2013)*

“Parents recognize the fact that we are serving healthy foods and are proud of it. I think it also increases our lunch and breakfast counts because parents know we are putting good food in front of the children. Even some of the picky kids are eating more often.”

*Janet Marshall at St. Anne Catholic School in Wichita, Kansas (Gold Award, November 2013)*



United States Department of Agriculture

# HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms



## Recognizing Excellence in Smarter Lunchrooms, Nutrition Education, and Physical Activity



Food and Nutrition Service



**S**chools play an important role in helping to reduce childhood obesity. Kids who have healthy eating patterns and get regular physical activity are also more likely to perform better academically.

That's why the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers the HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms\* to support the over 100,000 schools that participate in school meals programs in their efforts to promote nutritious food choices and physical activity.

### What Is the HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms?

- The HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms (HUSC: SL) is a certification initiative that recognizes schools for their efforts in improving food and beverage offerings, teaching kids about nutritious food choices and being physically active, providing opportunities for physical activity, and having supportive school wellness policies.
- Participation in the HUSC: SL is voluntary and certifies schools that meet specific criteria at four award levels: Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Gold Award of Distinction.

*\*The HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSC) was recently re-named to the HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms (HUSC: SL), due to special emphasis that recognizes schools actively implementing the Smarter Lunchroom techniques.*



### Why Smarter Lunchrooms?

Smarter Lunchrooms promote the utilization of simple techniques within the school lunchroom to guide smarter choices. Using principles developed by the Cornell Center for Behavioral Economics in Child Nutrition Programs, Smarter Lunchrooms can increase participation in school meals. HUSC: SL criteria place special emphasis on recognizing schools that are actively implementing Smarter Lunchroom techniques.



### Who Can Apply?

Schools are eligible to apply if they:

- Participate in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).
- Are a USDA Team Nutrition school. Registering as a Team Nutrition school is easy and free. It connects you with free nutrition education and food service training materials for your school. Learn more at <http://teamnutrition.usda.gov>.
- Meet or exceed all HUSC: SL criteria for the desired award level relating to the following:
  - Meal Pattern Requirements for the School Breakfast and Lunch Offerings
  - Smarter Lunchroom Techniques
  - Average Daily Participation for SBP and NSLP (for Silver awards and higher)
  - Nutrition Education
  - Physical Education
  - Opportunities for Physical Activity
  - School Wellness Policies and Practices
  - A Menu of Other Criteria of Excellence From Which Schools Select