The Facts on School Lunch Participation

The number of kids eating school meals changed before the updated nutrition standards

Many factors impact participation

Factors

- The recession
- Sales of competitive foods
- Increased charges for paid meals
- Time to eat
- Long lunch lines
- School closures, consolidations

Are schools dropping out of the National School Lunch Program?

0.5% of schools dropped out due to updated standards


- 27 states have increased participation from 2014 to 2015
- Nationwide total participation increased 0.5% from 30.4m to 30.5m children from 2014 to 2015

School Breakfast Participation Up in 4 out of 5 States (2014-2015)

- 42 states have increased participation from 2014 to 2015
- Nationwide the total participation increased 2.9% from 13.6m to 13.8m children from 2014 to 2015

Increase Participation Without Sacrificing Child Nutrition

Many schools are using simple techniques to increase participation in their school meals programs, such as:

- Engage students with taste tests
- Cut up fruit and vegetables
- Place fruit/vegetables before other options on serving line
- Create fun names for fruits and vegetables
- Place milk out front in lunchroom coolers
- Highlight an entrée on the lunch line
- Introduce a “healthy choices only” convenience line

#healthiernextgen bit.ly/CNParticipation