



Taste Test Resources from USDA

Healthy Kids, Healthy Programs Summit 2023

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United States Department of Agriculture



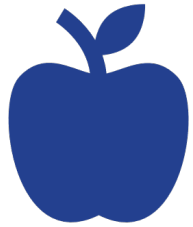
Speaker

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Have you held any taste test events at your school/district?



Benefits of Taste Test Events



Introduce new and healthy foods to students

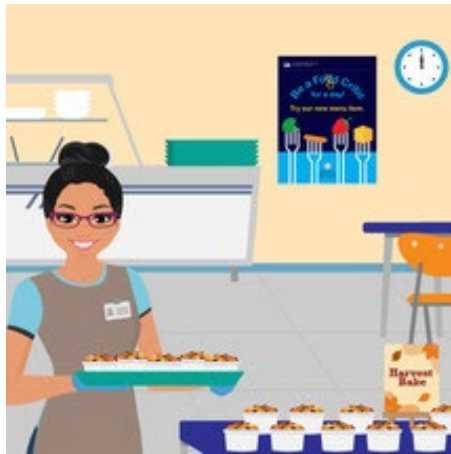


Create excitement for new menu items



Give students a voice in menu planning

Best Practices



Use potential menu items



Choose the right location



Promote your event



Practice food safety



Welcome student feedback



Share results

Team Nutrition



Initiative of the USDA Food and Nutrition Service to **promote lifelong healthy food choices and physical activity** by improving the nutrition practices of the USDA child nutrition programs

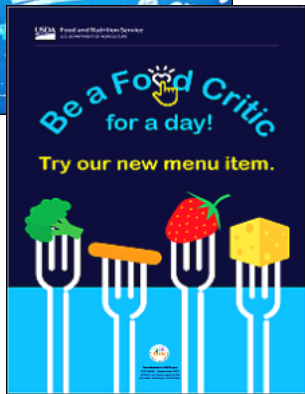
Develops nutrition education resources to help children make healthy food and physical activity choices as part of a healthy lifestyle

Provides technical resources to support healthy school and childcare environments

Provides training and technical assistance for child nutrition professionals to enable them to prepare and serve nutritious meals that appeal to participants

Resources for Taste Test Events

Posters



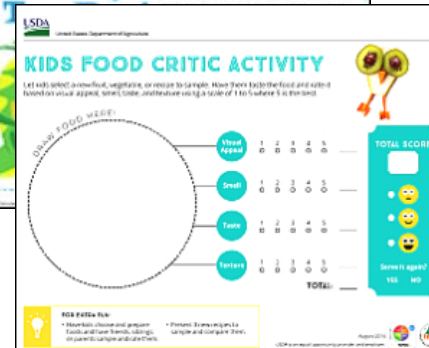
Social Media Images



Meal Talk Webinar



Ballots



Newsletter



Ingredients for a Successful Taste-Test Event

Taste tests are a great way for school nutrition professionals to introduce new menu items and get students excited to try healthy foods at school. The input collected from students can be used to improve recipes and create school meals that students want to eat. Use the tips below to help plan and host a successful taste-test event.

1. A Yummy Recipe or Food to Taste

Choose a recipe or food that you are considering adding to your school meals menus. Taste testing is a key part of the Institute of Child Nutrition's [USDA Recipe Standardization Guide](#) and the best way to measure student acceptability. Some schools fund student taste-testing events using money from the school food service account, while others use grant funds, such as [Team Nutrition Training Grants](#). When preparing the sampling area, provide utensils, napkins, and water. Both before and during the event, share (with staff, students, families) the taste-test recipe, nutrition and food allergen information, and highlight any locally produced ingredients in the recipe.




<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/meal-talk-webinar-series>

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/taste-testing-event-resources>

Team Nutrition Resources



 <https://pueblo.gpo.gov/TN/TNPubs.php>

- All resources are FREE!
- Available for download
- Printed copies of some resources are available through the Team Nutrition ordering website



Funding Opportunities

Farm to School Program Grants

- Supports schools, state agencies, nonprofit organizations, producers, and Indian Tribal Organizations in implementing and expanding farm to school efforts
- Supports a wide range of activities including developing partnerships, to creating new menu items, and offering taste tests to children
- Request for Applications (RFA) announced annually in the fall

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/f2s/farm-to-school>

Healthy Meals Incentive (HMI) Initiative

- Initiative to improve nutritional quality of school meals through food systems transformation, school food authority (SFA) recognition and technical assistance, the generation and sharing of innovative ideas and tested practices, and grants
- Healthy Meals Incentives Grants for Small and/or Rural SFA's. Application deadline: May 26, 2023
- RFA for School Food System Transformation Challenge Sub-Grants sub-grants will be announced later in 2023

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cnp/healthy-meals-incentives>

Team Nutrition Training Grants

- Play an important role in helping State Agencies deliver training and nutrition education that supports the USDA child nutrition programs
- State Agency grantees may have the opportunity to award sub-grants to carry out grant activities
- FY 2023: Team Nutrition Grant Supporting Nutrition Education for School-Aged Children: Awards announced in August 2023

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/team-nutrition-training-grants>





Thank you!

