



United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service

Southeast Region

Reply to

Attn. of: CN 11-1 Best Practices (NSLP)

August 10, 2016

Subject: 2016 Best Practice Awards

To: All State NSLP SBP/SMP/FDP Directors
Southeast Region

The Southeast Regional Office is pleased to announce the winners of the 23rd Annual Best Practice Awards in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP) and Food Distribution Program (FDP). All of the nominations considered included excellent examples of best practices within Child Nutrition Programs. We have provided two attachments to identify the winners:

- Attachment A lists the winners by category.
- Attachment B provides a summary of each initiative being recognized, listed by State.

We would like to thank everyone who submitted nominations and for the time invested in preparing the materials. We were impressed with their innovative ideas and commitment to school nutrition programs. We also appreciate the support you and your staff have given each year to the Best Practice Awards Program.

Should you or your staff have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact Veronica Barnes at (404) 562-1918.

Lanna R. Kirk

LANNA R. KIRK
Regional Director
Special Nutrition Programs

Attachment

State Level Awards

State Marketing of the Smarter Lunchroom

Alabama State Department of Education
Child Nutrition Program

State Promotion of Farm to School

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FL DACS),
Division of Food and Wellness

Local Level School Food Authority Awards

Increasing Participation in School Lunch, Breakfast, or Snacks	
Small SFA Category	<p>Georgia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrollton Middle, Carrollton City Schools Carrollton, Georgia • Baldwin County Schools Milledgeville, Georgia <p>Tennessee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grundy County High School Altamont, Tennessee
Large SFA Category	<p>Florida:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brevard County School Board #5 Viera, Florida <p>Georgia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Douglas County School System Douglasville, Georgia <p>South Carolina:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aiken County Public School District Aiken, South Carolina

Promoting a Healthy School Environment	
Small SFA Category	N/A
Large SFA Category	<p>Florida:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School District of Manatee County Bradenton, Florida <p>Georgia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nebo Elementary School, Paulding County School District Dallas, Georgia <p>South Carolina:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spartanburg School District Three Glendale, South Carolina

Customer Service	
Small SFA Category	<p>Florida</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alachua County, Food and Nutrition Department Gainesville, Florida <p>North Carolina</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Henderson County Public Schools Mills River, North Carolina Transylvania County Schools, School Nutrition Services Brevard, North Carolina <p>South Carolina</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties Irmo, South Carolina
Large SFA Category	N/A

Use of Social Media	
Small SFA Category	Georgia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White County Schools Cleveland, Georgia
Large SFA Category	Georgia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fulton County Schools Atlanta, Georgia

Farm to School	
Small SFA Category	Georgia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brantley County School Nutrition Nahunta, Georgia Kentucky <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wayne County School District Monticello, Kentucky
Large SFA Category	N/A

Creative Use of Commodities	
Small SFA Category	N/A
Large SFA Category	Florida: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orange County Public Schools Orlando, Florida

Food Safety HACCP Implementation	
Small SFA Category	Georgia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gainesville City School Nutrition Program Gainesville, Georgia • Glynn County School Nutrition Brunswick, Georgia
Large SFA Category	N/A

Leadership Development	
Small SFA Category	North Carolina <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson County Schools Wilson, North Carolina
Large SFA Category	Alabama: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Montgomery County Public School District Montgomery, Alabama

Implementation of the New Meal Pattern and Increasing Fruit and Vegetable Consumption	
Small SFA Category	Florida <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin County School District Stuart, Florida
Large SFA Category	Georgia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chatham County School Nutrition Program Savannah, Georgia

Fiscal Management	
Small SFA Category	North Carolina <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henderson County Public Schools Mills River, North Carolina

	Tennessee <ul style="list-style-type: none">• McMinn County School Nutrition Athens, Tennessee
Large SFA Category	Georgia: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Atlanta Public Schools Atlanta, Georgia South Carolina: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greenville County Schools, Food and Nutrition Services Greenville, South Carolina

State Level Awards

Alabama State Department of Education, Child Nutrition Program State Marketing of the Smarter Lunchroom

The Alabama State Department of Education Child Nutrition Program is receiving a Best Practices Award for their Smarter Lunchroom training of all State of Alabama Child Nutrition (CNP) Directors and managers in June of 2015. There were 1144 attendees at six training sessions held across the state. Topics covered included Behavioral Economics, Lunch Line Redesign, Case studies and putting thoughts into action. Attendees also received additional materials and manuals. A follow up session was also included at Alabama's Fall CNP conference. As a result of the training, 67% of the CNP Directors implemented Smarter Lunchroom practices and increased their marketing and participation figures.

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Division of Food and Wellness State Promotion of Farm to School

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) is receiving a Best Practices award for dramatically increasing training, education, promotions, and partnerships for the Florida Farm to School Program over the past four years. FDACS assisted in promoting Florida produce to increase sales across the state. They also expanded their "Harvest of the Month" program to include more students. In addition, FDACS created an e-newsletter for Harvest of the Month and produced new marketing materials for the National School Lunch Program around Florida's commodities including new promotional materials. FDACS also initiated procurement enhancements and increased efforts to encourage and recognize the many school gardens across the state. To date, 63% of all Florida's School Districts participate in some aspect of Farm to School.

Local Level School Food Authority Awards

Alabama

Montgomery County Public School District, Montgomery, Alabama Leadership Development/ Large SFA Category

Montgomery County Public School District will receive a Best Practices Award for their comprehensive training and tracking program. In addition to the annual Civil Rights training, a Child Nutrition Program (CNP) School-Wide Leadership Development Training is offered. Employees are also allowed to attend the Quarterly State Directors workshops, District Conferences, the Alabama School Nutrition Association State and National Conferences, and the National Food Service Management (NFSMI) Online and Onsite training workshops. Beginning in 2015 all professional development training is tracked using a tool developed by Montgomery County Public Schools. The excel spreadsheet is now used to track training progress towards both Alabama Department of Education and USDA requirements. This provides Montgomery County with a quick reference guide to ensure that all training requirements are met by every employee in all 51 school sites. This will be a significant aide to Montgomery County as they continue to promote professional development for their employees.

Florida

Alachua County, Food and Nutrition Department, Gainesville, Florida Customer Service/ Small SFA Category

Alachua County Food and Nutrition Department is being recognized for their “Pick 3 & It’s Free” promotion to encourage students to eat lunch at school. Alachua County has expanded the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program to 27 of their schools from the previous year to this year. However, even with the increase in participation at these schools, there were still many students bringing a lunchbox. The department implemented Pick 3 & It’s Free to address this issue. The message has been delivered in several ways including the parent newsletters and inserts sent home with students. The promotion has been a hit by letting the students and their parents know that they can still bring their favorite sandwich from home and add three components (fruit, dairy, & grain) from the school lunch program and it makes a the lunchbox a complete nutritious meal. Alachua County has found that parents love the option of their children adding milk and two other components to their child’s lunch box. Breakfast has increased at CEP schools by 10% and lunch by 7%.

Brevard County School Board #5, Viera, Florida

Increasing Participation in School Lunch, Breakfast, or Snacks/ Large SFA Category

Brevard County School Board is being recognized for their consumer based approach to marketing, by focusing on making menu choices and the cafeteria appealing to students first by sight and then by quality. Efforts are made to keep the food items diverse and desirable by the use of taste tests. Recently Brevard County has renovated the kitchen and cafeteria of L.B. Johnson Middle School. As a result, the cafeteria no longer feels like an institution and participation has risen for all meals served at the school.

Martin County School District, Stuart, Florida

Implementation of the New Meal Pattern and Increasing Fruit and Vegetable Consumption/ Small SFA Category

Martin County will be recognized for their clever food tags and food art served at Seawind Elementary School. The use of creative food art and stickers provided a fun way to encourage children to try new fruits and vegetables. Promotion items and food art were featured on Martin Counties web page for parents to view. The marketing strategy tested at Seawind Elementary was augmented by the smarter lunchroom techniques training for the school staff. Fruit and vegetable consumption and plate waste was monitored and as a result fruit and vegetable selections increased by 32% on some days.

Orange County Public Schools, Orlando, Florida

Creative Use of Commodities/ Large SFA Category

Orange County is receiving a Best Practices Award for their efforts to utilize commodities and ascertain the most appealing food items and recipes. The Truck of the Month (TOM) is a program that Orange County has implemented by partnering with commodity vendors. TOM is a food truck wrapped in a trendy design to promote new products that contain items such as chicken, turkey, fish, and beef. These vendors bring in their corporate chefs to demonstrate new to the market items and the Orange County culinary staff evaluates the ability to translate these into the school kitchens as a part of the reimbursable meal. The top five items are then tested with students and narrowed down to three successful items to be served. Each day TOM visits a new school and serves the new reimbursable meals exclusively from the truck to 150 to 300 students a daily. Students are then surveyed on iPads borrowed from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to determine potential use. Orange County has already increased the use of commodities, the revenue received and the total amount spent on commodities.

School District of Manatee County, Bradenton, Florida

Promoting a Healthy School Environment/ Large SFA category

The School District of Manatee County is being recognized for their creative “5-2-1-0-9” message that has been incorporated into Manatee County wellness efforts. The message is 5 cups of fruits and vegetables daily, limiting screen time to 2 hours, 1 hour of physical activity daily, and 0 is to encourage eliminating sugary drinks. 9, was added to the message to incorporate the recommended amount of sleep for students. The message is conveyed by several methods including signage, newsletters, physical education teachers, and lessons provided by health services and on bulletin boards. The Health Department also worked in collaboration to include the message at their sites.

Georgia

Atlanta Public Schools, Atlanta, Georgia

Fiscal Management/ Large SFA Category

Atlanta Public Schools is recognized for their accountability system to track and streamline the flow of food, information, and financial data in the local school district. The District Delivery Tracker for USDA Commodities was designed, developed, and implemented to track and communicate the flow of products and product information through the supply chain. The Nutrition Inventory Manager updates the tracker weekly and submits it to the Nutrition Accounting Manager for second party review. Once verified, the Accounting Manager distributes the tracker to the warehouse staff, Nutrition Director, and FSMC administration. The tracker eliminates barriers to among the Nutrition Department supply chain members by providing system wide uniformity. Stake holders meet to ensure that the tracker is being utilized by all parties effectively. As a result, the tracking system evolved to effectively provide standardized product information to ensure that all personnel handle inventory in a manner that controls cost. Significant cost savings has been achieved on most items.

Baldwin County Schools, Milledgeville, Georgia

Increasing Participation in School Lunch, Breakfast, or Snacks/ Small SFA Category

Baldwin County will be receiving a Best Practices Award for building positive relationships with school administrators for the benefit of students. Baldwin County has worked steadily to gain the support of teachers and principals in order to implement new ideas and raise participation rates. “Breakfast in the class room” and “Grab and Go” meals are now available and meal participation is now a part of each manager’s evaluation criteria. Principals are competing by displaying growth charts in the boardroom and marketing strategies have been improved. As a result, breakfast participation has risen by 25% and lunch 9.2% over the last four years.

Brantley County School Nutrition, Nahunta, Georgia **Farm to School/ Small SFA Category**

Brantley County School Nutrition will be recognized for their raised bed school garden initiative. Brantley County researched and created a low cost raised bed school garden and used it as a teaching tool for the Real Life 101 class for students with intellectual disabilities and autism. Students helped in every aspect of the school garden and some of their harvested produce was used and served on the school café salad bar. Planting, caring for, and preparing the produce was a valuable real life experience that gave the students an opportunity to work together and have a sense of pride in their work.

Carrollton Middle, Carrollton City Schools, Carrollton, Georgia **Increasing Participation in School Lunch, Breakfast, or Snacks/ Small SFA Category**

Carrollton Middle School will be receiving a Best Practices Award for their efforts to increase participation in the School Breakfast Program. School Nutrition began by analyzing participation data and barriers to participation. Carrollton Middle School then worked with School administration to acquire a mobile breakfast cart for a grab and go breakfast program. Grant funding was pursued to purchase both the breakfast cart and a table for point of service meal counting. The grab and go breakfast has been such a success that it has been offered in the cafeteria serving line and students are allowed to eat Breakfast in their classrooms. Combining the cart and cafeteria has resulted in a substantial breakfast participation increase.

Chatham County School Nutrition Program, Savannah, Georgia **Implementation of the New Meal Pattern and Increasing Fruit and Vegetable Consumption/ Large SFA Category**

Chatham School Nutrition Program will be recognized for their efforts to increase consumption of vegetables. Over the last several years Chatham County has developed new recipes in order to give students more appealing options. In addition, Chatham has implemented “Try it Tuesday,” “Power Picks,” and a daily chef salad entrée option to promote vegetable consumption. Try it Tuesday is a monthly promotion, showcasing a seasonal fresh fruit or Vegetable. This encourages students to try something that may be new and unfamiliar to them. Power picks are items highlighted as the healthiest options of the day. They are chosen by the Registered Dietician with the Gulfstream Children’s Wellness Program and Center. In School Year 2015-16 salad bars were implemented in all 54 schools. They are used daily in addition to current menu options. As a result, vegetable sales have increased by 20% over the past year.

Douglas County School System, Douglasville, Georgia

Increasing Participation in School Lunch, Breakfast, or Snacks/ Large SFA Category

Douglas County School System will be receiving a Best Practices Award for their creative efforts to increase participation during the time of year when participation starts to slide. Historically, Douglas County High School meal participation begins to decline just before Spring Break and continues at a lower rate through the end of the school year. In an effort to increase interest in lunch, an innovative “March Madness” Pizza event was held. The event was tied to the annual March Madness college basketball tournament and used a bracketed tournament of pizzas flavors to both introduce new specialty pizzas and increase the number of students eating in the café at that time. By pitting the pizzas against each other in this fashion, the more popular pizza moved on in the competition. As a result, Douglas County School Nutrition now offers specialty pizza option each day on the menu and the decline in participation has been reduced.

Fulton County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia

Use of Social Media/ Large SFA Category

Fulton County Schools is awarded a Best Practices Award for their ongoing social media campaign to promote meal participation. Fulton County is using Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram to share attractive images combined with creative hashtags and links to popular accounts utilized to maximize the number of viewers. Posts focused on appealing pictures of real school meal foods, students enjoying school meals, farm to school efforts, taste tests, and learning experiences associated with school meals. Links and handles to all three social media accounts are included in monthly digital newsletters, the school nutrition program website, and printed school nutrition brochures. Additionally, Fulton County used clever social media promotions during special events such as National School Lunch Week.

Gainesville City School Nutrition Program, Gainesville, Georgia

Food Safety HACCP Implementation/ Small SFA Category

Gainesville City School Nutrition is recognized for their effective food safety monitoring program. In order to ensure that Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) operating procedures are being followed, a review procedure similar to a health inspection has been developed. The reviews are conducted monthly and the location and time of the review is not shared with the school. Any areas needing corrective action are immediately addressed with the manager of the kitchen. Managers can then share with staff as needed. Follow up reviews are conducted if warranted to ensure that Gainesville City School Nutrition kitchens operate safely. As a result, during the most recent round of inspections all Gainesville City Schools received a score of 100.

Glynn County School Nutrition, Brunswick, Georgia **Food Safety HACCP Implementation/ Small SFA Category**

Glynn County School Nutrition is receiving a Best Practices Award for their food safety HACCP quick reference guide. Glynn County is utilizing Dry Erase Boards for this process. The boards are strategically placed in the kitchen for easy access by all staff. The manager uses this board to write the name of the menu items/recipe number served and the correct process required for that item. Information including the basic temperature control and standard operation procedures are bulleted on the boards. This allows all staff a quick guide to follow whether they are new or experienced. The employee in charge of that menu item then documents on the board the temperature readings. As a result of this quick reference system, nearly all schools in Glynn County are receiving a score of 100.

Nebo Elementary School, Paulding County School District, Dallas, Georgia **Promoting a Healthy School Environment/ Large SFA category**

Nebo Elementary School is being awarded a Best Practices award for their commitment to wellness activities in their community. Various activities have been implemented to promote a healthy environment for children and their families. A “Family Fitness Night,” a running club, and a “Family Field Day” were also held at the school. Nebo Elementary also has an “Iron Kids” team which practiced and competed in a triathlon. Nebo Elementary also partnered with Sparkles skating rink to host a wellness night that had over 200 participants. At the main event, the “Extreme Family Field Day,” over 2,000 participants took part in various activities focusing on nutrition education and fitness.

White County Schools, Cleveland, Georgia **Use of Social Media/ Small SFA Category**

White County will be recognized for their active marketing presence on social media. White County posts menus, pictures, and announcements on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram which enables communication with stakeholders, and promotes a positive awareness of their meal programs. White County has used this forum to not only provide information but also to receive feedback from students and the community. Both positive and negative comments are monitored to answer questions and improve the overall quality of school food service. White County is also utilizing YouTube to post videos highlighting their Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and their Georgia Grown Program. Links to the video are posted on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Kentucky

Wayne County School District, Monticello, Kentucky **Farm to School/ Small SFA Category**

Wayne County School District will be receiving a Best Practices Award for their ongoing farm to school activities surrounding their school garden. The Wayne County School Garden was originally established in School Year 2011-2012, and since that time Wayne County has expanded their garden and grown many different types of produce. Wayne County has partnered with the local county extension office, the Future Farmers of America (FFA), and student groups to manage the farm and provide applied learning opportunities for students. The education about farming culture and nutrition has given the students a sense of pride and ownership that will have a positive impact on their lives.

North Carolina

Henderson County Public Schools, Mills River, North Carolina **Customer Service/ Small SFA Category**

Henderson County Public Schools is being recognized for their ingenious implementation of a pre order system in the School Breakfast Program. Henderson County initiated the use of rosters for the five schools that serve Universal breakfast in the classroom. The schools already used a lunch item order form but Henderson County Schools decided to incorporate a pre-order system for breakfast. The breakfast meal components are listed along with guidelines about what must be chosen to constitute a reimbursable breakfast. The students make their lunch entrée choices for the current day and their breakfast component choices for the following day. The preorder rosters are then taken to the cafeteria manager by 9:30 am daily. The teachers and student helpers mark the rosters for students receiving the meal and account for any who are absent. This idea has helped save a great deal of money in several ways. Overall, Henderson County Schools system will save about \$95,000 in a full year.

Fiscal Management/ Small SFA Category

Henderson County Public Schools will be recognized for their three part solution to loss of revenue. Henderson was able to identify three areas that were causing the loss in revenue and develop a plan to address all three. In the first issue, High Food Costs at Universal Breakfast Schools were addressed by developing a pre order roster system that allowed Henderson to serve Breakfast in the classroom utilizing offer vs serve. This saved money by eliminating excess food being sent to classrooms. Secondly, they identified schools that had labor in excess of set standards. Labor was reduced at four targeted schools, which immediately made an impact on their bottom line. This was accomplished through transfers and attrition. Thirdly, low

performing schools were analyzed to identify individualized plans for increasing outreach and marketing. Through partnerships, promotional marketing and contests, menu and supplemental items were made more appealing and accessible. So far, the three part plan has yielded an increase of \$167,784 to Henderson's bottom line.

Transylvania County Schools, School Nutrition Services, Brevard, North Carolina

Customer Service/ Small SFA Category

Transylvania County Schools will be receiving a Best Practices Award for their efforts to address food insecurity in their community. Due to the extreme food insecurity and need of some children and families in the Transylvania County area, Transylvania County schools began a "Back Pack Buddies" program and worked to help form the Hunger Coalition of Transylvania County. School Nutrition Services organizes and oversees the administration of the Back Pack Buddies Program. The Hunger Coalition members oversee the administration and operations of the Hunger Coalition Programs and Nutrition Services is a part of the coalition. Both are operated through 501c3 tax exempt organizations. The program sends food home on Friday afternoons with children who live in food insecure environments and have inadequate food for the weekend. The program began serving about 75 children per week and currently serves 340 children per week. Food packs are distributed for holiday breaks and summer food packs will be delivered directly to children's homes for the second summer in 2016. Packs are assembled and delivered by combining the efforts and resources of the Regional Food Bank, a local food pantry, local Rotary clubs, School counselors, administrators and staff.

Wilson County Schools, Wilson, North Carolina

Leadership Development/ Small SFA Category

Wilson County Schools is recognized for their daily menu meeting at each school. Although cafeteria staffs receive annual training on reimbursable meals along with handouts on all products and meal components for the school year, administrative staff still noted difficulty in staff not recognizing reimbursable meals or understanding the meal components. In order to address these errors, Wilson County has implemented daily menu meetings at each school. The menu meeting is a short meeting that managers hold daily with kitchen staff to go over reimbursable meals and the menu items for the day. These simple short meetings go a long way to ensuring that meal service procedures are followed and employees can perform their duties with confidence.

South Carolina

Aiken County Public School District, Aiken, South Carolina Increasing Participation in School Lunch, Breakfast, or Snacks/ Large SFA Category

Aiken County Public School District is receiving a Best Practices Award for their continuing efforts to efficiently utilize commodities, encourage fruit and vegetable consumption and increase meal participation. Innovative recipes have been introduced and meal presentation has been improved. The new items have been well received and participation and fruit and vegetable consumption has increased.

Greenville County Schools, Food and Nutrition Services, Greenville, South Carolina Fiscal Management/ Large SFA Category

Greenville will be receiving a Best Practices Award for their efforts to maximize profitability in A la Carte sales. The project uses the concept of menu engineering. Menu engineering uses sales and cost data to ensure that the items sold offer the greatest possible profitability. Using an excel spreadsheet tool, they analyze menu items' popularity and profitability and assign them ratings of one of four (ranging from low sales and low profits to high profit and high sales). As a result, the low scoring items were removed and the high scoring items were highlighted and promoted wherever possible. As a result of the analysis profits have risen significantly.

School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties, Irmo, South Carolina Customer Service/ Large SFA category

Lexington/Richland Five is being recognized for their innovative Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Food Truck conversion. Lexington/Richland Five partnered with Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina (BCBSSC) to increase efficiency in their SFSP by piloting a SFSP Food Truck. With funding from BCBSSC's Foundation, Lexington/Richland converted an unused delivery vehicle into a food truck. Outfitted with a generator, warming cabinet, and a refrigerator, it allowed for the transport of hot and cold meals, preserving the quality of the food prepared at a central kitchen. In addition, the mobility associated with the food truck allowed Lexington/Richland to accommodate multiple scheduled serving times at various locations. The 2014-2015 SFSP was record breaking for Lexington/Richland; it consisted of 14 sites and daily visits from the food truck. The number of SFSP meals served soared, and Lexington/Richland County plans to make improvements so that the truck can service even more sites this summer.

Spartanburg School District Three, Glendale, South Carolina

Promoting a Healthy School Environment/ Large SFA category

Spartanburg School District Three will be receiving a Best Practices Award for their creative Breakfast video created at Clifdale Elementary and the World Food Day Celebration held at Cowpens Elementary School. Various events placed an emphasis on the importance of eating healthy whole foods and physical activity. Taste tests and assemblies were held including prizes, exercises and a bicycle blender race. The enthusiastic event was showcased on WSPA News Channel 7, Oct. 9, 2015.

Tennessee

Grundy County High School, Altamont, Tennessee

Increasing Participation in School Lunch, Breakfast, or Snacks/ Small SFA Category

Grundy County High School is being recognized for their “Second Chance” Breakfast program. Students at Grundy have the option to either eat before school begins or at the Second Chance Breakfast. This allows students who arrive later or are not hungry first thing in the morning to eat a healthy breakfast. The practice is very cost effective and participation has increased 22% since implementation. The Second Chance breakfast now serves more children than the regular breakfast.

McMinn County School Nutrition, Athens, Tennessee

Fiscal Management/ Small SFA Category

McMinn County School Nutrition is receiving a Best Practices Award for their continuing efforts to control plate costs. Several methods are being used in these efforts including: standardizing work hours, replacing positions only when needed, and participating in the Southeast TN buying group. McMinn has also reduced maintenance costs by replacing inefficient equipment and improved food quality by adding healthier menu items. School Nutrition has also utilized commodities for more entrees and implemented a new POS system. As a result, participation has increased in both Breakfast and Lunch and plate costs have been controlled.