

Food Sharing Tables Are Coming to Tyler County Schools

According to the US Department of Agriculture, up to forty percent of food produced in America is wasted, amounting to 31 million tons of food added to landfills each year. In an effort to reduce food waste in schools, Tyler County Schools will begin implementing food sharing tables in all school cafeterias.

The food sharing table initiative, which is backed by the Department of Agriculture, is trending nationally. It's intended to feed kids in need while saving nutritious, usable food from landfills. Students can leave unwanted food or drinks at a designated station where others can help themselves. These items should be unopened, prepackaged goods including milk, whole fruits and vegetables, or bags of chips and crackers. The food that remains on the table at the end of the lunch hour will be taken to the office where it can be distributed to staff or families in need. Any undistributed food will be discarded at the end of the day.

“It is our goal to reduce food waste and help students that need a little extra food if they are hungry,” explained Amanda Kimble, TCS Child Nutrition Director. “With nearly 13 million kids in the U.S. facing hunger every day and 40% of U.S. food supply wasted, we wanted to do our part in making that number smaller.”

For more information regarding the food sharing table initiative please visit <https://www.fns.usda.gov/use-share-tables-child-nutrition-programs>

FOOD SHARING TABLE GUIDELINES:

Food components *recommended* for sharing:

- Unopened/Pre-packaged Items
- Whole Fruits and Vegetables
- Unopened Milk (when stored at 41 degrees or below)

Food components *not recommended* for sharing:

- Unpackaged Items
- Opened Packaged Items
- Items From Home
- Perishable Foods

