



Recognizing Nutrition Excellence in Schools

Many schools are taking a leadership role in improving their school environment to provide students with the opportunities and skills needed to make healthy food choices and to be more physically active. The United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) established the HealthierUS School Challenge to recognize those schools that make improvements. HealthierUS Schools can be certified as either Silver or Gold Team Nutrition Schools according to standards established by FNS.

How Does It Work?

Schools must meet a basic set of criteria. To be certified, a school must:

- be an elementary school
- be enrolled as a Team Nutrition School
- offer reimbursable lunches that demonstrate healthy menu planning practices and principles of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* and that meet USDA nutrition standards
- provide nutrition education to students
- provide students the opportunity for physical activity
- maintain an Average Daily Participation of 70 percent or higher of school enrollment for reimbursable lunches
- adhere to guidelines established by FNS for foods served/sold in schools outside the National School Lunch Program.

For details see: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn> and select *HealthierUS School Challenge*

Michigan Team Nutrition

Michigan State University Extension and the Michigan Department of Education in Partnership

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