

# + Stepping into Montana's Smarter Lunchrooms



## Hardin School District, Hardin High School

### Smarter Lunchrooms Principles Used:

1. Increase visibility
2. Increase convenience
3. Increase taste expectations



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### Goals:

- ⇒ Increase intake of fruits and vegetables while decreasing food waste.
- ⇒ Increase student participation in school lunch program.
- ⇒ Create a positive working relationship among students and food service staff to improve acceptance of menu items and school lunch program.

### Action:

- ⇒ Started a grab and go lunch meal station for students who don't want to eat in lunchroom.
- ⇒ Redesigned the lunchroom by moving the salad bar to the beginning of the lunch line, allowing for easy access and high visibility. (Entrees follow the salad bar.)
- ⇒ Enhanced marketing of salad bar items with eye catching placement of fruit.
- ⇒ Placing fruits, vegetables, salads and milk front and center on the a la carte line.
- ⇒ Using shallower pans on salad bar to decrease waste and leftovers.
- ⇒ Formed a Student Nutrition Action Committee to increase communication with students and staff to receive recommendations and feedback.

### Results:

- ⇒ Students' consumption of salad bar items increased by 68 percent.
- ⇒ Salad bar waste decreased 20 percent from 1 oz. per student to 0.8 oz. per student.
- ⇒ Increased Smarter Lunchrooms Self-Assessment Score by 16 points.
- ⇒ Student participation in the lunch program continues to increase; up 6.7 percent in the 2015-16 School Year. Community Eligibility Program, additional meals, and increased enrollment are strong influencers.

### Next Steps:

- ⇒ Continue the Student Nutrition Action Committee to ensure continued collaboration between the food service staff and students.
- ⇒ Effectively brand and market the lunchroom with a "Grand Opening."
- ⇒ Continue to expand Smarter Lunchrooms concepts to the other schools in the district.
- ⇒ Apply for a HealthierUS School Challenge/Smarter Lunchroom award.

## Montana Team Nutrition Program

Visit [www.opi.mt.gov/MTeamNutrition](http://www.opi.mt.gov/MTeamNutrition)

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