



The School District of Palm Beach County, Florida

School Food Service Department

Product Evaluations

Product Evaluation Purpose:

Product evaluations provide the School Food Service (SFS) Department with important feedback that is strongly considered when making global decisions for the entire district. Products are first evaluated at the administrative level to determine a baseline application. Then products are sent to school sites to be tested with students. This process allows students an opportunity to assess and document their opinions on a potential item which is one of the most vital aspects of the evaluation process.

Evaluation Process:

- Step 1 ⇒ Administrative Review
 - Evaluates
 - Nutritional Profile
 - Program Contribution
 - Preparation Methods
 - Appearance/Taste/Presentation/Holding Capabilities
 - Cost
- Step 2 ⇒ School-based Review
 - SFS Manager feedback
 - Program Contribution
 - Preparation/Serving Methods
 - Appearance/Taste/Presentation/Holding Capabilities
 - Cost
 - Suggested applications
 - Student taste testing with documented feedback
 - Acceptability:
 - Taste
 - Appearance
 - Cost (if applicable)



School-based Testing:

Preference will be given to school sites where the School Food Service (SFS) Manager is a member of the Menu Advisory Board. When applicable, a member of the Nutrition & Wellness Promotion Team will be on-site to assist in conducting the product evaluation. SFS Managers will be given specific directions on how to carry out the product evaluation. All product evaluations will need documented results which will be filed centrally.

Evaluation Methods:

- Student Focus Groups
 - Selected group of students
 - Collaborate with school staff to organize student testing
 - Student Government Association
 - Culinary Academies
 - Science Students
 - Athletic Teams
 - Academic Club
 - Student Menu Advisory Board
- Menu Option
 - SMI Recipe created and offered as a daily selection
 - Items are tested two times with the same group of students
- Cafeteria Taste Testing
 - Sample sized portions provided