Information for K-12 Schools on Reducing Wasted Food including Donation from School Breakfast and Lunch Programs

EPA’s Food Recovery Hierarchy (right), prioritizes these food waste strategies from most to least preferable.

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General – Addresses Several Areas on Hierarchy

USDA Food Waste Challenge info for K-12 schools – links to many resources

EPA Food Recovery Challenge – EPA partners with organizations and businesses to prevent and reduce wasted food. Challenge participants save money, help communities, and protect the environment by purchasing less, donating extra food, and composting.
http://www2.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food

Creative Solutions to ending school food waste – USDA website

Food Waste Reduction in School Meals Programs – Flyer

Reducing Food Waste, What Schools Can Do Today – Infographic

USDA Food Waste Webinar Videos & Presentations

Smarter Lunchroom Self – Assessment Score Card

Source Reduction – Preventing Food from Being Wasted in the First Place

Minimizing Food Waste: The “Offer versus Serve” (OVS) provision of the NSLP and SBP is a concept that applies to menu planning and the meal service. It is intended to minimize food waste by allowing students to turn down items they do not intend to eat or to request a smaller portion size.

What is a Reimbursable Meal? Summary from USDA

Healthy Kids, Hunger Free Kids Act 2010 – Flyer in English and Spanish
See item on minimizing food waste

Offer versus Serve – Guidance for 2014/2015
School Meals Guidance and Resources

USDA Guidance Offer VS Serve – clarifies that students can decline food they do not intend to eat

USDA Guidance: Clarification on the Use of Offer versus Serve and Family Style Meal Service – 2011

Great Strategies from Cornell Smarter Lunchrooms Research
http://foodpsychology.cornell.edu/content/smarter-lunchrooms

http://www2.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/tools-assessing-wasted-food

Updated Offer vs Serve Guidance for the NSLP and SBP Beginning SY2015-16

**Donation/Recovery Resources**

Guidance on the Food Donation Program in Child Nutrition Programs Feb 2012

Am I Liable For Food That I Donate? Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act

Legal Guide to Food Recovery (Overview of Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act & liability)
http://law.uark.edu/documents/2013/06/Legal-Guide-To-Food-Recovery.pdf

Find a Local Food Pantry
http://www.ampleharvest.org/find-pantry.php

Food Bus Food Recovery Toolkit
http://foodbus.org/toolkit/

**For California**

Guidance on the Donation of Leftover Food from CA Dept. of Education
http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/sn/mbusdacnp042012.asp

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