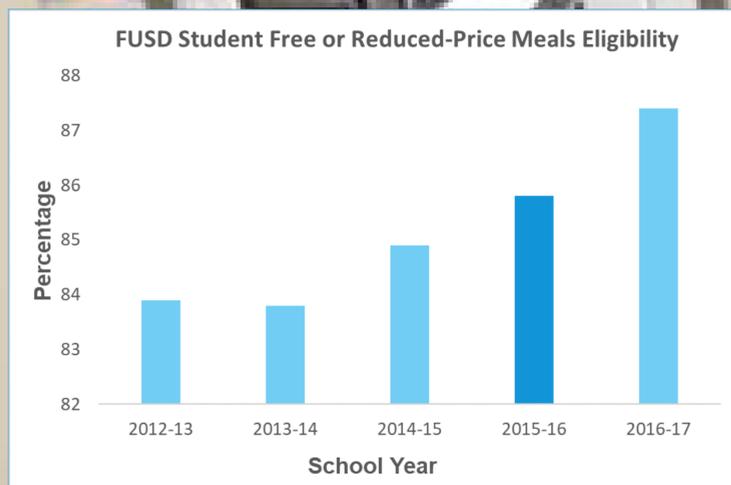


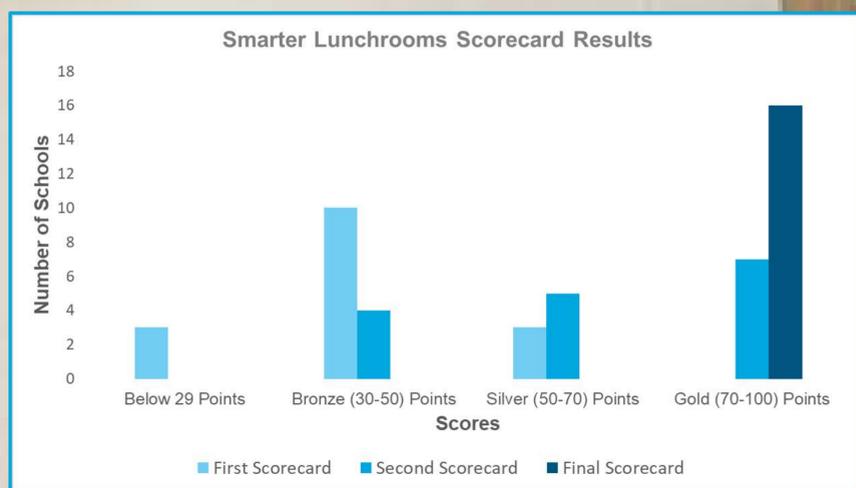


SMARTER LUNCHROOMS MOVEMENT: A DISTRICT-WIDE APPROACH IN FRESNO COUNTY



The Need

Fresno County is among the top producing agricultural counties in California and the nation, yet it has one of the highest rates of poverty, food insecurity and hunger, particularly among children. Compared to the rest of the state, Fresno County children are disproportionately affected by poverty and food insecurity. According to recent reports, 38% of children in Fresno County are below the federal poverty level, and 29% are considered food insecure. During the 2015-16 school year, 74% of Fresno County students and 86% Fresno Unified School District (FUSD) students, qualified for free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program.



The Work

The Fresno County UC CalFresh Nutrition Education Program partnered with FUSD Food Services, and the Dairy Council of California to apply Smarter Lunchrooms Movement approaches. This collaboration enhanced school lunchroom environments to increase food access and improve healthy food choices. The partners provided schools with the knowledge, motivation, and resources needed to implement SLM in Fresno Unified Middle Schools district-wide. Fresno Unified hired 1 staff person, trained by UC CalFresh, to implement SLM and administer final scorecards.

The Result

A minimum of two SLM 100-point Scorecards were conducted at all 16 Middle School sites in FUSD, during the 2015-2016 school year, with initial scores below 50%. By the final scorecard, all 16 sites achieved scores 70% or higher, earning them gold status. This effort, led to Wawona Middle School being awarded the Gold Award of Distinction, by the Healthier US School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms Award.

Looking Ahead

UC CalFresh will continue capacity building efforts forged by this successful SLM collaboration. The next step is to implement SLM in all FUSD Elementary Schools district-wide through the following UC CalFresh supports to sustain SLM:

- Link classroom nutrition education & youth engagement activities
- Train Food Service Managers
- Monthly Food Service Director meetings

UC CalFresh aims to provide a multi-level approach to obesity prevention for Fresno County's most vulnerable populations.



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