CAFETERIA ENHANCEMENT EXPERIENCE

An initiative of the NYC DOE Office of Food and Nutrition Services

Images and information compiled by Community Food Advocates and the Lunch 4 Learning coalition
SPEEDY SERVICE
Enhanced Serving Line
VARIETY ON A DAILY BASIS
Lunch
Hot and Cold Daily Options
Hot Daily Specials
Bins and Condiment Area
SOCIAL SEATING
BEFORE
AFTER
YOUTH VOICES
"BY OFFERING RENEWED AND IMPROVED SCHOOL CAFETERIAS WHERE STUDENTS FEEL COMFORTABLE EATING THE SCHOOL FOOD, YOU CAN SUPPORT THE INTELLECTUAL GROWTH OF EACH AND EVERY STUDENT."

- ALEXANDER O-MARTINEZ RIJ

"THE NEXT STEP IN THE BATTLE FOR SCHOOL FOOD JUSTICE IS TO BRING MORE MODERN AND UP TO DATE CAFETERIAS TO NYC STUDENTS."

- FAITH JONES

"WHEN MY FATHER WAS SICK AND MY MOTHER WOULD BE AT THE HOSPITAL WITH HIM, I HAD TO RELY ON SCHOOL FOOD. THIS OPENED MY EYES TO THE IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL FOOD BECAUSE IT WAS ACCESSIBLE TO ME AT THE TIME THAT I NEEDED IT THE MOST."

- LESLIE GOMEZ RIVERA

"I HAVE SEEN HOW THE STIGMATICIZATION OF EATING SCHOOL LUNCH OR SITTING IN THE CAFETERIA HAS PREVENTED THE TYPE OF LIVELY SOCIALLYIZING A SCHOOL CAFETERIA SHOULD FOSTER."

- ELISHA VEREBES

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IMPACTS
44 School Cafeterias Across NYC
(as of February 10, 2022)
The first 15 high school enhanced cafeterias, serving 47 schools...

35% increase in lunch participation

If every high school cafeteria in NYC is enhanced,

30,000 more students would participate every day
Compared with schools of the same type without redesign, enhanced cafeterias served:

- 3.0x more Bananas, Peppers, & Tomatoes
- 4.0x more Apples, Carrots, & Spinach
- 30.0x more Lettuce
- 4.9x more Broccoli
- 11.3x more Grapes
Syracuse University study linked universal free meals to academic performance, with increases in test scores equivalent to as much as 10 weeks of learning in math and ELA.

Source:
https://www.maxwell.syr.edu/uploadedFiles/cpr/publications/working_papers2/wp203.pdf