

## ADMINISTRATOR FACT SHEET

### IS YOUR SCHOOL READY TO TAKE THE HEALTHIERUS SCHOOL CHALLENGE?

The HealthierUS School Challenge is a voluntary school nutrition and wellness initiative established by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service for schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program. The USDA believes that schools can take a leadership role in helping students learn, at an early age, to make healthier eating and lifestyle choices.

USDA encourages all schools to make positive changes to their school environments and has, through the US Challenge, established four levels of recognition—depending on the degree to which the school commits to meeting the criteria—Bronze, Silver, Gold, and, the highest of honors, a Gold Award of Distinction.

### WHY SHOULD OUR SCHOOL APPLY?

As a US Challenge Award-Winning School, your school will:

- Support the local wellness policy efforts of your school district.
- Support your school's academic plan. Research indicates a positive relationship between student achievement and nutrition and physical activity.
- Receive a recognition plaque, monetary award (\$2000 for Gold Award of Distinction, \$1500 for Gold, \$1000 for Silver, \$500 for Bronze) and award banner from USDA to display in your school to showcase your school's achievement.
- Receive positive community and media attention and possibly the appearance of a USDA official at a local event.
- Communicate to parents, students, teachers, and the community a commitment to children's health and well-being.

### WHAT DOES OUR SCHOOL NEED TO DO?

- Enroll as a Team Nutrition school.
- Contact your local school foodservice director and/or visit the Team Nutrition Web site at: [teamnutrition.usda.gov](http://teamnutrition.usda.gov) to download the application and additional information. Click on "HealthierUS School Challenge."
- Convene a local review team, including yourself and representatives from school foodservice, classroom teachers, school nurse and/or Physical Education teacher, and parent organization.
- Demonstrate healthy menu-planning practices; provide nutrition education, and offer physical education and opportunities for physical activity.
- Demonstrate a successful school meal program.
- Complete an application with documentation and required signatures.
- Submit the completed application to your State Child Nutrition agency.