SAMPLE CAFETERIA ASSESSMENT TOOL

Parent advisory teams can use this tool to gauge perceptions about the school cafeteria environment and prioritize strategies for improving it. Share what you learn from this assessment with your food service director.

[NAME OF SCHOOL]

1. Please describe your impressions of the school cafeteria environment? (Check all that apply):
   - Noisy
   - Quiet
   - Bright
   - Dim
   - New
   - Old
   - Congested
   - Spacious
   - Clean
   - Dirty
   - Rushed

2. Please describe how the cafeteria environment might be enhanced or improved.
   1.
   2.
   3.
   4.
   5.

   Thank you. We value your feedback.

IMPROVING THE CAFETERIA EXPERIENCE

A fresh coat of paint, music, murals and even a new seating arrangement can bring fresh energy to the cafeteria and improve the overall student dining experience. Consider the following when undertaking cafeteria beautification projects. Remember to partner with your food service director to understand what types of improvements could support their strategic action plan or if they already have some improvement projects in their budget.

Organize
Form a team of parents, students and staff interested in a school cafeteria beautification effort.

Ask for Permission
Ask your principal and the food services director what types of projects are within the realm of possibilities.

Gather Input
Survey students, food service staff, parents, the custodial staff and teachers for their ideas for beautifying the school cafeteria.

Collaborate
Collaborate with the team and key school staff to outline next steps.

Develop a Plan
Develop a plan for cafeteria enhancements based on input from parents, students, staff and administrators.

Budget/Timeline
Determine the budget and timeline needed to complete the project.

Partners
Ask for help by reaching out to potential community partners that may be willing to support the project.

Solicit Resources
Look for resources to support the project, such as grants, monetary donations, in-kind support (donations of time and/or materials), district support and/or parent group support.

Schedule Tasks
Create a timeline that includes start and finish dates and outlines who will be doing what. Provide healthy refreshments and make it fun. Include students in the process, whenever possible.

Share the Results
Take before and after pictures. Write an article for the school or community newsletter to share the good news about the cafeteria beautification effort.

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