



Armada Area Schools Wins Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Award

We proudly announce that ***Armada Area Schools*** received a Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Award for improving the nutritional quality of our district's school meals.

Awarded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) in collaboration with Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK), ***Armada Area Schools*** received the ***Rural SFA Lunch Trailblazer USDA Recognition Award*** for our work in ***menu planning meal Preparation to reduce sodium content by using all Fresh or Frozen Vegetables exclusively, with no added sodium, implementing the use of fresh herbs and spices, to roast and prepare vegetables for School Lunches.***

As an award recipient, we are also receiving national and local recognition and travel stipends to attend a national Healthy Meals Summit.

"We congratulate ***Armada Area Schools*** on this important achievement," said Rob Bisceglie, Executive Officer & President for Action for Healthy Kids. "The HMI Recognition Awards are an opportunity to showcase innovative school nutrition practices that provide children with access to nutritious school meals," he added.

"One of America's best opportunities to improve child health is through supporting schools in providing tasty and nutritious meals," said Cindy Long, administrator of USDA's Food and Nutrition Service. "This Recognition Award highlights the remarkable achievements ***Armada Area Schools*** has made in offering healthy meals that students enjoy, and we look forward to them sharing their best practices to help other schools follow in their footsteps." Long added that each school day, USDA school meal programs reach around 30 million children from all communities and backgrounds across the country.

"Daily our students comment on the taste of the vegetates, truly enjoying the overall taste, they love them!" Melissa Elliott, Armada Area School Food Service Director.

AFHK is recognizing school districts to spotlight innovative practices, student and community engagement activities, and strategies schools have used to provide meals that are consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans – all as part of a cooperative agreement to develop and implement the USDA FNS's Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative. Learn more about the Healthy Meals Incentives at www.healthymealsincentives.org.

Healthy school meals are an essential part of the school environment and a proven tool for improving a child's health, growth, development, and educational outcomes. AFHK and USDA are committed to working together to strengthen school meals and investment in a bright future for our children.