

## EXPANDING BREAKFAST DELIVERS RESULTS CHASCO ELEMENTARY OFFERS UNIQUE BREAKFAST PROGRAM!



<b>DISTRICT:</b>	Pasco County School District, Port Richey, Fla.
<b>SCHOOL NUTRITION PROFESSIONAL:</b>	Emily Laymon (FNS Training Coordinator)
<b>FREE/REDUCED RATE:</b>	44%
<b>ENROLLMENT:</b>	66,313 (District) 665 (School)
<b>NUMBER OF SCHOOLS:</b>	100
<b>NUMBER OF EXPANDING BREAKFAST SCHOOLS:</b>	1
<b>IMPLEMENTED EXPANDING BREAKFAST:</b>	2006
<b>ALTERNATE BREAKFAST SERVICE:</b>	Breakfast in the Classroom

### ★ BACKGROUND

Chasco Elementary School, Port Richey, Fla. serves a unique breakfast called “breakfast in the loop.” This breakfast-serving style provides students with breakfast at the bus and car loops as they arrive on campus. Students then proceed to the classroom where they eat their mobile meal. “Breakfast in the loop” is offered free to all students at Chasco and supplies a variety of healthy selections daily, including essential dairy products like milk, cheese and yogurt.

### ★ IMPLEMENTATION

“Breakfast in the loop” started with school nutrition staff providing breakfast for elementary students from mobile carts strategically placed at ‘loops’ around campus during Florida Assessment Testing week. The goals of this pilot were to improve the concentration and focus of students to help them achieve higher test scores and make “breakfast in the loop” a permanent daily fixture in student lives.

In order to make the pilot a success, school nutrition staff began by meeting with key school staff to get the necessary buy-in. Administration, teachers, custodians and the plant manager were included in the discussion. The district dietitian began modifying the existing breakfast menu to fit a more mobile operation. It was decided five mobile carts would be strategically placed around campus for easy access and students would take breakfast back to the classroom to eat. The custodial staff made rounds to the classrooms to remove waste and teachers were provided with supplies for any potential spills. The pilot was a tremendous success with teachers leading the charge to continue the program full-time.

Continued →

## **IMPACT**

Since adopting this program, over 70% (470 students) of the school's enrolled students participate in the program. Also, standardized test scores have increased.

Teachers remain very positive about the program, reporting that students are better prepared for class, concentrate and focus on material better, and they are able to start class earlier because students get to class on time.

As a result of this program, the school nutrition team is using the mobile carts during lunch and after school functions to sell healthy a la carte items. Other school organizations rent the carts for their functions creating additional revenue for the school nutrition program. Lastly, it has improved the rapport between school nutrition staff and school faculty prompting joint program implementation of nutrition promotions throughout the school year.