Navigating Supply Chain Disruptions: Finding Innovative Solutions During Challenges Times

2022 RURAL CHILD HUNGER SUMMIT

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Save the Children

LAND O' LAKES, INC.
Linda Martin
Food Service Director
Uinta County School District #1
Demographics

Evanston, Wyoming: Population 12,000
District: 2,700 Students
9 Schools
Averaging 1,800 lunches and 900 breakfasts
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Buying in Bulk

In district options

Collaborate with other districts

THE BOX

I don’t have room

Local storage unit for paper goods

Custodians need gloves too
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FRIENDS

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https://healthyschoolrecipes.com/

https://www.tysonfoodservice.com/

https://www.landolakesfoodservice.com/

https://snp.gadoe.org/SCE/Pages/K-12-Recipes.aspx

https://simplotfoods.com/

https://www.mccainusafoodservice.com/k12-recipe-hub/

https://www.bongards.com/

https://www.butterballfoodservice.com/recipes/

https://www.jtmfoodgroup.com/

https://www.jennieofoodservice.com/k12/recipes.cfm

GOOGLE SEARCH K12 RECIPES
School Nutrition Role:

- Zone 3 Operations and Management Consultant – North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

- As a consultant for the State Agency, I consult with:
  - 15 Traditional School Food Authorities (SFAs)
    - School sites in those SFAs range from 7 to 178
  - 25 Charter School Food Authorities
  - 7 Residential Child Care Institute (RCCIs)
School Nutrition Role:

- I work on various Administrative Review (AR) Teams throughout the school year at geographical locations in all parts of the state of North Carolina.
State of School Nutrition During Pandemic:

- School Nutrition Professionals recognized as “Essential Heroes”
- Need to Serve Their Community
  - Tufts University Survey
- School Nutrition Professionals have endured incredible hardships to feed students:
  - No PPE
  - Loss of Valued School Nutrition Professionals
State of School Nutrition During Pandemic:

- School Nutrition Professionals have endured incredible hardships to feed students:
  - Curbside feeding
  - Use of activity and yellow buses to transport meals
  - Grab n Go meals
  - Meals served in classrooms and gyms
  - Boxed meals for up to a week
Challenges Now Being Experienced:

- Supply chain shortages
- Major staffing upheaval
- Increased labor costs
- Global food prices
- Distributor concerns – refusal to rollover existing contracts
- Menu planning
Challenges Now Being Experienced:

- Unfunded mandates for salary increases
- Not able to obtain USDA Foods
- In the state of North Carolina, October 2020 – October 2021:
  - Breakfast meal counts are down 7%
  - Lunch meal counts are down 10%
Solutions for a Brighter Future:

- Support from district superintendents, principals, and administrators is critical to the success of your programs.
- Consider advance ordering of food and supplies to allow suppliers time to secure items or substitutions.
- Discuss options with distributors when receiving “Out of Stock” Reports.
- Building relationships with distributors, manufacturers, and all vendors is most important during these challenging times.
Solutions for a Brighter Future:

- Building relationships with distributors, manufacturers, and all vendors is most important during these challenging times.
- Use emergency and micropurchasing options when needed.
- Purchase local fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Consider increasing warehouse capacity by searching and securing unused facilities in the district.
Solutions for a Brighter Future:

- If possible, rotate staff to allow staff members a “day off”.
- Be flexible with distributors in receiving orders (late afternoons and weekends may be better options).
- Consider options for successful managers to manage multiple sites.
- Provide incentives for new and fresh ideas to improve your operations.
10 Rural School Districts

DAKOTA TEN
Piloting group of 10 rural school districts in South Dakota
Funded by No Kid Hungry
Largest District: 675 students
Smallest District: 124 students
Free/Reduced rates range from 16% - 45%
Mainly farming communities
Let’s look at Oldham Ramona

Consolidated schools – Student population: 194

Student Demographics – 97% White, 1% Hispanic, 1% Two or more races
29% students from low income families

NOTE:
Nearest grocery store 26 miles
Supply Chain Solutions

- Reduce number of deliveries when feasible – Work with your distributors to see if this impacts fees charged.

- Communicate needs and forecasts as early as possible.

- Plan your alternatives – “what if” situations. When something doesn’t show up, you already know what will happen.

- Communicate, communicate and communicate to your parents, administrations and all others.
Supply Chain Solutions

- Rural school districts combine buying power—Work together for more like products to assist distribution.
- Open minded when working together is critical.
- Stay within the Bid Projections where possible.
- Share your WINS – No styro-lunch trays, cost saving factor with paper food trays. Compute the savings.
Supply Chain Solutions

- Focus on the future
  What about the Avian Flu impact?
  How do I plan for supply and demand concerns in the future?

- Listen to what is happening around the country, world.
  Copy paper issues
  Equipment demands and lead times

- This is a new era – gone are the ways we always did this, look at how we will be better.

- WE CAN DO THIS!
LET’S TALK THROUGH THIS FURTHER