

# Miami-Dade County Public Schools Department of Food and Nutrition

*Eating Healthy Every Day!*



## LEAN AND GREEN INITIATIVES: ELIMINATING PLASTIC STRAWS

RESULT: REMOVAL OF 45 MILLION PLASTIC STRAWS FROM THE WASTE STREAM ANNUALLY



## ELIMINATING PLASTIC STRAWS Plan, Publicize, Provide, Support

- ▶ Plan: Began with select high schools and "green schools"; inform district leadership and enlist support; identify community champions and partners; identify new product needs; provide training/professional development for food service staff –Summer Training Institute 4 hour class:

Lean & Green education on eating healthy, reducing food waste, and conserving resources to improve the environment. ([Click Here](#))

- ▶ Publicize: Inform students, staff, administration, media, community
- ▶ Provide: The straw-less utensil packet, paper straws, information, and training.

Worked directly with supplier of utensil packet to eliminate the straw from production - challenges and delays, but ultimate success. Created posters and marketing material for school cafeterias (Straw-less Tool Kit). Provided consistent communication and messaging for school staff, administrators and media.

- ▶ Support: On-going assistance to school food service managers from all areas of F&N Administration: Operations, Materials and Supplies, Professional Development, Nutrition and Wellness Programs and Education.
- ▶ Linked to F&N Goals
  - ▶ Increase Student Meal Participation at Breakfast and Lunch
  - ▶ Control **All** Costs and Reduce Waste
  - ▶ Go **Lean and Green** for Wellness and a Healthy Environment



# ELIMINATING PLASTIC STRAWS

## Plan and Provide

- ▶ Professional Development, Marketing and Communications
- ▶ Worked with student groups and clubs
- ▶ Developed training materials for staff on sustainability initiatives, reducing waste and eliminating single-use plastics
- ▶ Designed a marketing poster and Straw-Less Tool Kit
- ▶ Communicated to staff, students, principals, media, community
- ▶ Providing Items – Challenges with Vendor Push-back/Inventory
  - ▶ Vendor of the utensil packet unreliable on promised delivery date. We maintained pressure to meet commitment for straw-less item and succeeded in the removal of the straw.
  - ▶ Procuring an acceptable paper straw challenging; added new inventory items and delivery to schools .
  - ▶ Working with pouch beverage vendor who would not replace the "pointy" plastic straw . Vendor states there is no other option. New specifications added to new solicitation.

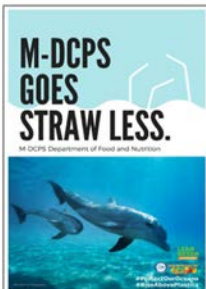


# ELIMINATING PLASTIC STRAWS

## Publicize and Support

### School Cafeterias and Food Service

Straw-Less Tool Kit  
Poster, Paper Straws, Flyer



### Administration and School Principals

Weekly Briefing  
(official M-DCPS communications)

Briefing ID #: 26652  
 ALL PRINCIPALS/APS: Elimination of the Plastic Straw from the Cafeteria Spork Packet  
 Category: For Your Information

Audience: All Principals/APS  
 Post Date: Oct 31, 2019

Due Date: n/a  
 Meeting Date: n/a  
 Master Calendar: n/a

Attachment(s)  
 \_MDCPS\_Goes\_Straw\_Less\_Poster\_(Final).pdf

To inform Principals of the elimination of the plastic straw in the cafeteria spork packet.

### Media and Community



M-DCPS Newsroom  
**Eliminating Plastic Straws** – As part of continued sustainability initiatives, the plastic straw will be eliminated from the utensil packet purchased for all cafeterias beginning in the 2019-20 school year. Separate paper straws will be provided to school cafeterias for students to select as needed. Efforts to research and purchase a compostable and/or biodegradable utensil to replace the current plastic utensil will continue as part of this initiative. Complete release of new programs/initiatives this year: <http://news.dadeschools.net/cmnc/new/29158>

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