



# Let's Break the Rules!

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## Is It a Rule?

- A student must take a beverage with their meal
- Lunches must contain certain colors of vegetables over the course of a week
- The California Health Code requires a person running the register and not serving food to wear gloves
- A student must always have a fruit or a vegetable for a meal to be reimbursable
- The cash register has to be at the end of the line



## Is It a Rule?

- Suzie always makes the cold salads
- A small school without a kitchen has to serve cold meals
- The school principal wants (fill in the blank)
- You have to buy your food from the distributor



## Is It a Rule?

- Mary uses the blue cart
- Meals have to be served from the cafeteria
- Meals have to be eaten on campus
- Only students enrolled in school can get meals
- You have to serve breakfast before lunch
- You can't argue with City Hall...or the CDE...or the USDA



# Rules We Must Follow

- Nutrition standards
- Meal counting procedures
- Confidentiality



## But Let's Consider....

- Who knows better than you what is best for your program?
- Who is an expert in child nutrition programs?
- Who has something to gain from improving your program?
- Who can make change happen?



## And Let's Imagine...

- What would your program look like with different serving times?
- What would your program look like if you served meals somewhere else on campus?
- What would your program look like if employees were cross-trained to work in other areas of your operation?
- What would your program look like if you served a different type of cuisine?



# Some Guidelines for Rule-Breaking

- Examine the right rule in the right context
- Understand what the goals are
- Find the boundaries
- Approach the person with respect
- Break the rule!





## Broken Rules Abound!

- Email instead of postal mail
- Digital photos instead of film
- Ipads instead of mainframes
- GPS instead of maps
- Smartphones instead of EVERYTHING (calculator, watch, laptop, camera, map, book, the list goes on....)



## And You Would Not Be First....

- Food courts instead of cafeterias
- Breakfast in the classroom
- Serving meals from a bus or food truck
- Bean burritos for breakfast
- Second shift employees
- Just-in-time cooking



# Who Knows How To Break The Rules?

- Student suggestions
- Feedback from parents
- Keeping current with our industry
- School nutrition employees



# Learn From The Best!

- Comment cards
- Focus groups
- Parent meetings or Back to School night
- Magazines, newsletters and this conference!



# Meetings

- Ask for ideas for improvement
- Listen, take notes
- DON'T JUDGE!
- Report back and give credit



What Rule Will You Break?

