

Creating a Comfortable Cafeteria Environmental Analysis Checklist

Use this checklist to observe different environmental aspects within the cafeteria and check whether or not you note any concerns that may need to be addressed. Provide comments and suggestions.

School: _____ Grade level: _____ Date: _____

Environmental Aspects	Concerns	No Concerns	Comments	Suggestions for Improvement
<u>Auditory</u> Describe overall noise level: extremely loud, loud, average, quiet				
Are students able to have conversations at their tables using an indoor voice?				
Unexpected noise: Cause, frequency, intensity and duration				
What method is used to control noise? How is staff trained to aid in noise reduction?				
Note students' or cafeteria supervisors' response to the noise level. What students appear irritated with loud noises?				
<u>Visual</u> Stationary aspects of the environment (decorations, wall color, table and chair arrangement). Is the environment appealing to look at? Calming or alerting?				
Movement within the environment (staff and students). Is movement excessive and distracting for someone eating?				
Lighting: Fluorescent? Or natural lighting?				

Environmental Aspects	Concerns	No Concerns	Comments	Suggestions for Improvement
<p><u>Taste</u> School bought lunch versus packed lunch; Do student complain about the taste of the lunch? Do students seem to enjoy the food they eat?</p>				
<p><u>Tactile/Touch</u> Is there an excessive amount of unexpected touch due to arrangement of chairs and tables; proximity of students to each other?</p>				
<p><u>Movement</u> Can students easily move around the room?</p>				
<p>Is there an excessive amount of standing in line waiting for food, or to leave?</p>				
<p><u>Describe Social Environment:</u> <i>Student interactions</i> → Positive? Relaxed? Friendly? Stressed? Negative?</p>				
<p><i>Note mealtime conversations and friendships.</i> Are certain students excluded? Loners?</p>				
<p><i>Supervisor interactions</i> → Do supervisors interact in positive ways with students? Greet them by name? Smile? Handle conflict well?</p>				
<p><u>Behaviors</u> Note any problematic behaviors. What factors seem to promote behavioral challenges?</p>				

Overall, rate your perception of participation and enjoyment of lunchtime.

	Low	Average	High
Student enjoyment of social interaction with peers & mealtime conversations; positive conversations; including others			
Student enjoyment of eating their lunch; do they seem happy			
Supervisor enjoyment in interacting with students; friendly with positive interaction?			

Describe the STRENGTHS of the current Cafeteria/Lunch environment –

Describe students’ at-risk of experiencing challenges at lunch (social, sensory-based, motor, etc.) – Identify any students who might need additional supports or accommodations in order to participate and enjoy their lunchtime.

Make SUGGESTIONS for changes that could be made to improve the Cafeteria Environment so that students can enjoy eating a meal and socializing with friends and so that supervisors can enjoy their job.

Compiled by: _____



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