



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Students to taste-test cafeteria food at Choice Partners 2021 School Nutrition & Product Expo

WHAT: Choice Partners, Harris County Department of Education’s purchasing cooperative, will host its annual School Nutrition and Product Expo, themed “Fabulous 50’s,” from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, October 6, at the Humble Civic Center. The expo was not held in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

School district nutrition experts who purchase food or cafeteria-related products for their districts through HCDE’s Choice Partners co-op will evaluate food and beverage products being considered for their school cafeterias. Students from area school districts will taste-test products, providing feedback to school district nutrition directors. Thirty school districts, private and charter schools, higher education institutions, and nonprofit organizations will be in attendance.

The Choice Partners co-op takes the feedback from both students and child nutrition staff and considers it to plan for procurement of future food and cafeteria-related contracts. The cooperative provides legal, competitively awarded contracts for groceries, dairy products, bread, produce, and other food products. Contracts provide purchasing solutions for school cafeteria food and food service.

The event will feature more than 100 food and equipment vendors, including Gordon Food Service, Borden Dairy, Schwan’s Co., Tyson Foods, General Mills, and PepsiCo Foodservice. Because of Covid-19, this year, vendors will focus on individually wrapped, shelf-stable, and personal-sized food items.

Through Choice Partners cooperative contracts, food is purchased annually by Harris County school districts to supply approximately 90 million student school lunches.

WHO: Choice Partners Assistant Director **Trisha Prestigiacom**, over 100 food and equipment vendors, and Harris County students

WHEN: Wednesday, October 6
9 a.m-1 p.m.
**Students will arrive at 10:30 a.m.*

WHERE: Humble Civic Center
8233 Will Clayton Pkwy, Humble, TX 77338

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