

# SHARE TABLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR K-12 SCHOOLS



## INTRODUCTION

Making regular announcements to the entire school can be a good practice for keeping everyone informed. Below are some developed scripts and ideas for keeping staff and students informed and to encourage participation. Make announcements during morning announcements as well as during the lunch period to encourage participation.

*Tip: For video announcements, use examples of items that can go on the share table, like packaged sliced apples, packaged sandwiches, etc. as well as examples of items that cannot go on the share table such as opened packages, items from home-packed lunches, half-eaten items.*

## WHAT IS A SHARE TABLE?

The United States Department of Agriculture defines a share table as carts and/or tables where students can place uneaten food and beverage items served by the school. These items are then available to any student, allowing students to have access to more of the foods that they will eat, and to avoid wasting the foods that they will not.

## WHY SHARE TABLES?

With as much as one million pounds of food entering the Franklin County landfill every day, local school leaders and the Central Ohio Food Waste Initiative, led by SWACO, are joining national and international efforts to cut food waste in half by 2030. Share tables are one of several ways that schools can do their part to be part of the solution.



## KICK-OFF ANNOUNCEMENT

"During lunch today, you may notice a new table with some food sitting on it. That's because <Enter schools name> has joined the community-wide effort to reduce the amount of food we're sending to the landfill. This new table is for sharing. If you see something on the table that you'd like to eat, you're welcome to have it. After you've eaten your lunch, if you have untouched or unopened food that you'd like to share with a classmate, you're invited to leave it on the Share Table. By participating in this new share table, you're helping to rescue food from going to the landfill. If you have any questions about what to do, see a cafeteria monitor or teacher."

## FOLLOW-UP ANNOUNCEMENTS

"We are excited to start a share table in our cafeteria! By implementing a share table, we can all have more of our favorite foods for lunch and reduce food waste. Did you know that nearly 1 million pounds of food go to the landfill in Franklin County every single day?!" That includes untouched, fresh, nutritious food that could be shared among students before going to waste. Remember to use our new share table to share food that you do not want with your classmates rather than letting it go to waste."

"You can help our school prevent food waste! In our cafeteria, we have a designated share table where you can place unopened items that you will not eat to share with others. There is signage on the table showing what items can go on the table."

"If you're buying lunch today, don't forget to participate in the share table! You can donate any uneaten, untouched foods from your tray to the share table. Together, we can reduce food waste!"

"Don't forget to participate in the share table at lunch time! You can help yourselves to seconds from the share table or place your extra unopened school lunch items on the table to share with your peers. Together we can reduce food waste!"



“Did you know that that for each Franklin County resident, 260 pounds of food are landfilled each year? Let’s do our part to make sure that our food is eaten instead of going to the landfill. Participate in our share table during lunch!”

“Food is meant to be eaten. If you have more food than you want, help your school lunch items get to a classmate who wants it by placing it on the share table- or take an item from the table yourself!”

“Are you sometimes still hungry after eating your lunch? Check out what food is on the share table to see if there is anything else to fill you up! Enjoy delicious food while helping to reduce food waste!”