

New Lunch Pre-Plate Packaging

MCPS Division of Food and Nutrition has taken an exciting step forward in our elementary lunch packaging by switching from aluminum trays and lids to recyclable CPET trays.

- The new trays are easier to use, neater and more convenient than the old aluminum tray. Students can handle the tray as soon as 30 seconds after removal from the oven.
- Single use trays and film cover are fully recyclable – reducing our solid waste output.
- Our new tray is familiar to younger students because it resembles those brought home from the supermarket and local restaurants.
- New packaging means that our students can see the meal that they are selecting, thus speeding up cafeteria lines and removing guesswork.
- The product stays fresher longer maintaining quality and eye appeal.
- This packaging is heat stable and does NOT contain Bisphenol A, DEHA or Styrene. CPET does not contain plasticizers or orthophthalates.
- The film covering does NOT contain PVC.
- Recycling plastic saves twice as much energy as burning it in an incinerator.
- For every 1 ton of plastic that is recycled we save the equivalent of 2 people's energy use for 1 year, the amount of water used by 1 person in 2 month's time and almost 2000 pounds of oil.
- In recent years, the number of U.S. plastics recycling business has nearly tripled. More than 1,600 businesses are involved in recycling post-consumer plastics.