

## **The Los Angeles Unified School District Field Based Nutrition Intervention Evaluation Project, 2003-2004**

The overall purpose of this study is to provide the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Nutrition Network and other stakeholders with outcome measures of the impact of the LAUSD Nutrition Network. The LAUSD Nutrition Network was established to encourage healthy eating and physical activity among LAUSD students. This study will address the research questions “Are elementary students in LAUSD schools with Nutrition Network funding consuming more fruits and vegetables than students in LAUSD schools without Nutrition Network funding?” and “Are elementary students in LAUSD schools with Nutrition Network funding consuming more fruits and vegetables at post-intervention compared to pre-intervention in one school year?” Our hypothesis is that fruit and vegetable knowledge, attitudes, and frequency of consumption will be higher in the intervention schools than in control schools and that fruit and vegetable preferences will be broader and more varied in intervention schools than control schools and these differences will be greater at post-intervention. In order to measure the hypothesis, the research team will focus on three major evaluation activities:

- Measure student and parent fruit and vegetable access, availability, knowledge, attitudes, preferences and consumption at pre-intervention and post-intervention during a school year in a sample of Nutrition Network participating and eligible, non-participating schools.
- Collect observations of the school environment including if the schools have a fruit and vegetable bar, garden, and components of the LAUSD Nutrition Network program at each intervention school.
- Analyze existing data collected by the LAUSD Nutrition Network to describe the LAUSD Nutrition Network intervention.

The second purpose of this study is to test a methodology for conducting an outcome evaluation of field-based nutrition interventions. The California Nutrition Network would like to create a model outcome evaluation that will be able to be replicated in other field-based nutrition interventions. Process measures will be collected to evaluate the facilitators and barriers of replicating this evaluation model.