

ELL Tips for School Staff: Food Service/Cafeteria

Here are some ways that food service staff can support English language learners (ELLs).



Introduce yourself.

Greet students with a smile and introduce yourself. Let students and families know you are there to help them in the cafeteria and where to ask questions.



Show students what to do.

Help students find their way around the cafeteria. Find a staff member or student buddy to show new students where to get food and drinks, as well as how to pay for meals.



Use visuals.

Use visuals in the cafeteria and bilingual signs and menus where possible. This is especially helpful for safety signs.



Review allergy safety.

Review safety procedures related to food allergies with the school nurse and other teachers, including how to quickly contact the nurse if students have an allergic reaction.



Support communication.

Find out which staff members work with multilingual families. Share your ideas about issues that need to be addressed or ways to make students feel welcome.



Address bullying.

Address any bullying in the cafeteria immediately. ELLs and their families may not be familiar with school policies related to bullying and they may be afraid to report any incidents.

To see more great tips, visit [the online version](#) of this article!

