The Smarter Lunchrooms Movement of California is a collaborative composed of the following organizations: California Department of Education, Dairy Council of California, UC CalFresh Nutrition Education Program, California Department of Public Health, California Food Policy Advocates, Kaiser Permanente Thriving Schools, The California Endowment, and Cornell University B.E.N. Center.

What is the Smarter Lunchrooms Movement?
The Smarter Lunchrooms Movement (SLM) was started by the Cornell Center for Behavioral Economics in Child Nutrition Programs in 2009 with the goal of creating sustainable research-based lunchrooms that guide smarter choices.

California Joins the Movement!
After exposure to the movement in 2013, the SLM of CA Collaborative formed. The Collaborative has since established a statewide system that develops expertise in SLM practices and implements these practices in lunchrooms across the state. All of the collaborative partners have the common goal of increasing student consumption of healthy foods and reducing the amount of food wasted during meals. To date, the SLM of CA has trained over 250 school districts out of 1028 in California.

SLM of CA Delivery Model
California’s training and delivery model is based on the belief that comprehensive training linked to education and technical support is essential to successful implementation. Our model provides a training program for FSDs and then connects them with a Technical Advising Professional (TAP) for needs-based support. Best practices are promoted through partner websites, at conferences and the “Monthly Nudge” newsletter.

Through our system of TAPs, the SLM of CA has completed assessments at over 50 school sites evaluating how California schools compare nationally: