Shelf-Stable Milk in Schools

Dallas Independent School District Pilot Program Results



Dallas Independent School District (Dallas ISD) sits in the heart of a large, diverse and dynamic region. It is one of the largest school districts in Texas.

Dallas ISD's Food and Child Nutrition Services recognizes the important role their meals play in supporting student achievement, and milk is a key source of nutrients in these meals. During Dallas ISD's shelf-stable milk pilot program, a study* was conducted to measure the impact on the district and students.



When

Dallas ISD's shelf-stable milk pilot study was conducted in the second semester of the 2021-2022 school year. Nine schools began serving milk in shelf-stable cartons instead of chilled milk cartons.

Results

Schools in the pilot program showed increases in milk purchases, milk consumption and meal purchases, along with a decrease in milk waste.



Additional Findings

- No "lost milk days" from supply chain issues
- Fewer invoices translated to administrative cost savings
- Students favored or were indifferent to the taste of the shelfstable milk
- When fully rolled out, fewer deliveries through self-distribution resulted in cost savings

	Milk purchases	Milk waste	Milk consumption	Meal purchases
Nine pilot schools	+3.6%	-5%	+12%	+9%
Rest of Dallas ISD	-2.4%	No change	-2.4%	+1%
Pilot schools vs. rest of Dallas ISD	+6 points	-5 points	+14.4 points	+8 points



Additional pilots yielded similar results!

Dallas ISD is just one example of school districts testing shelf-stable milk. Schools in Utah and Colorado have conducted similar studies in the past with favorable results, and they continue to serve shelf-stable milk today.

Learn more about shelf-stable milk in this short video.



 st This study was sponsored by Tetra Pak, DMI and Dairy MAX.

