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schools.utah.gov
250 East 500 South
P.O. Box 144200
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4200
801.538.7500
UTAH STATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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Contact: Charlene Allert, M.P.H., Assistant Director of Child Nutrition Programs
801-538-7563 · Charlene.allert@schools.utah.gov

Five Utah Schools Earn Utah's First HealthierUS School Challenge Awards

SALT LAKE CITY –Park City's Jeremy Ranch Elementary School, McPolin Elementary School, Parley's Park Elementary School, and Trailside Elementary School along with Provo's Freedom Academy charter school will be presented with the Healthier US School Challenge Bronze Award for promotion of nutrition and physical activities. They are Utah's first schools to earn the awards.

An award ceremony will be held Tuesday, March 22 at 1 p.m. at Trailside Elementary, 5700 Trailside Drive, Park City, to honor all four of Park City's award-winning schools. U.S. Department of Agriculture Special Nutrition Programs Regional Administrator Darlene Barnes will present the schools with plaques, banners and $500 each to be used in the school meal program.

An award ceremony will be held Wednesday, March 23 at 10 a.m. at Freedom Academy, 1190 W. 900 North, Provo, to honor that school. U.S. Department of Agriculture Special Nutrition Programs Nutritionist Kristina Klatt will present the school with a plaque, banner, and $500 check to be used in the school meal program.

HealthierUS School Challenge is a voluntary national certification for schools participating in the National School Lunch Program. It supports First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move campaign by recognizing schools that are creating healthier school campuses through the promotion of good nutrition and physical activity.

The initiative focuses on three main areas. Schools must show they have improved the quality of all food available on the campus by meeting the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the Institute of Medicine's recommendations. In addition to menu choices, schools must also provide students with nutrition and physical activity education and the opportunity to participate in physical activity during the school day.

Learn more about the HealthierUS School Challenge at www.fns.usda.gov/tn/HealthierUS/indes.html.