



Location: El Cajon, California



Enrollment: 18,000



Streamlining cafeteria operations with Q

How Q Food Service Streamlined Cafeteria Operations at Cajon Valley Union School District

Cajon Valley Union School District in San Diego County, California serves a diverse population of over 18,000 students across 28 schools. As a district committed to providing a quality education for all, technology plays a crucial role in ensuring student success.

We spoke with Jonathon Guertin, Chief Technology Officer, about Cajon Valley's decades-long partnership with Aequitas and their use of the company's SIS product, Q Food Service. Having worked with numerous SIS vendors throughout his career in education, Jonathon ranks Q as his favorite Student Information System for its extensibility, support, and cafeteria capabilities.

Efficient Cafeteria Operations

Prior to using Q Food Service, Cajon Valley struggled to ensure all qualified students received free or reduced-priced meals. Their previous system for determining eligibility for the free and reduced lunch program was not integrated with their SIS, was error-prone, and limited the district's ability to extend benefits to family members who might not have direct certification themselves.

"The system we used before was very archaic," Guertin said. "It wasn't flexible enough to allow us to extend direct certification to family members, even if we wanted to do so manually. This limitation not only made it difficult to ensure equitable access to meals for all students but also created a lot of extra work for us to maintain accurate data."

By implementing Q Food Service, Cajon Valley significantly improved its ability to identify and deliver free and reduced-price meals to qualified students. Q Food Service is seamlessly integrated with Q SIS, reducing duplicate data entry and streamlining the eligibility process and eliminating the logistical hurdles that previously prevented them from extending benefits to family members.

Q Food Service also has robust data management capabilities. This allows the district to maintain clean and accurate household data, which is essential for ensuring that the program runs smoothly and reaches all eligible students.



“Q Food Service has helped us make our free and reduced meal program more accessible to students. The numbers we have today wouldn’t have even been imaginable on our old system.” - **Jonathon Guertin, CVUSD**

Cajon’s Vision for Continuous Improvement

While Cajon Valley has made significant strides in its cafeteria operations with Q, the district remains focused on future goals, like enhancing the enrollment process through full digitalization and utilizing data visualizations to improve student outcomes.

With an online enrollment process, Cajon Valley hopes to remove hurdles associated with traditional paper-based methods, like endless paperwork and in-person visits. For data visualizations, Cajon Valley has its sights set on Q Analytics. By leveraging the data collected by this integrated module, Cajon Valley hopes to gain a deeper understanding of its student population and make data-driven decisions to power student success.

As the district embraces the future of paperless enrollment and enhanced data analytics, Aequitas Solutions and its SIS, Q, remain a crucial partner in Cajon Valley’s journey towards a more effective, inclusive, and successful learning environment for all students.



“Aequitas and by extension, Q, is really a partner of ours. In a state as complex as California, it’s invaluable to have that relationship and trust with a vendor versus just being a one-in-a-thousand district. Having a true partner that wants to help you achieve success is invaluable.” - **Jonathon Guertin, CVUSD**

