

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Date]

Contact: [Name]

[Number]

[Email]

**[SCHOOL NAME] Students Cross Social Boundaries
During [INSERT Nth NUMBER] Annual Mix It Up at Lunch Day**

[CITY NAME] – Today students at [SCHOOL] joined more than one million other students across the country and around the world to help break down social and racial barriers by participating in the [INSERT Nth NUMBER] annual Mix It Up at Lunch Day.

[OPTIONAL QUOTE BY EDUCATOR OR STUDENT]

The event, launched by the Southern Poverty Law Center’s Teaching Tolerance project in 2002, encourages students to sit with someone new in the cafeteria for one day, but to incorporate the day into yearlong efforts to promote a healthy school climate. Cafeterias are the focus of Mix It Up because that’s where a school’s social boundaries are most obvious. Many schools plan similar barrier-busting activities throughout the day or hold multiple events throughout the school year.

[OPTIONAL DESCRIPTION OF SCHOOL’S EVENT]

“Mix It Up is a positive step that schools can take to help create learning environments where students see each other as individuals and not just as members of a separate group,” said Teaching Tolerance Director Maureen Costello. “When people step out of their cliques and get to know someone, they realize just how much they have in common.”

[OPTIONAL PARAGRAPH ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL]

The Southern Poverty Law Center established Teaching Tolerance in 1991 to provide educators with free resources designed to reduce prejudice, improve intergroup relations and support equitable school experiences for the nation’s children.

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