

# Increased Funding, Better Food: 2009 Child Nutrition Reauthorization



Healthy Schools Campaign's goal for the upcoming reauthorization of the child nutrition programs is to advocate for a policy platform which results in:

1. **Increased funding for the school meals program**
2. **Increased quality of meals served in the school meal program, where increased quality means reduced use of highly processed foods which are high in fat and sodium, increased fresh and high quality frozen fruits and vegetables, increased whole grains, and reduced over-all sodium content, and student acceptance of these meals.**

## 1. Increased Funding for School Meals Program

Increase the reimbursement rates for school meals to cover the full costs (including food, energy, labor and over-head) of serving meals which meet the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

## 2. Increased Quality of Meals Served in the School Meal Program

*Following are changes to federal policy that will result increased quality of school meals:*

A. **Increase schools' opportunities for local procurement** by supporting streamlining of the administration procurement processes, including implementing USDA rules on geographic preference and providing technical assistance funding for USDA partnerships with schools and non-profit organizations to develop and scale up procurement pilots, including model practices in product sourcing, bid specifications and menu planning for all child nutrition programs.

B. **Increase access to healthier food by increasing the nutritional quality of USDA Foods (commodities)** by requiring that the USDA's Agriculture and Marketing Service and Farm Service Agencies purchase the widest possibly variety of healthful food and use the Dietary Guidelines as the basis for specifications for USDA Food purchases and processing.

C. **Establish health-promoting nutritional standards for food sold in schools outside of the school meals program** that are consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and consistent with nutritional standards for school meals.

D. **Bring nutritional standards into alignment with the latest nutrition science** and the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, by requiring the USDA to publish a final rule within 24 months of the issuance of the Institute of Medicine Review of National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns and Nutrient Standards report.

E. **Strengthen local school wellness policies** by requiring school districts to make their wellness policies and their implementation plans easily accessible to students, parents, school staff and state officials, and by requiring that school districts establish standing local wellness policy committees to lead development, notification, implementation and assessment of school wellness policies.

F. **Streamline and reform nutrition education** and provide reliable funding for the Team Nutrition Network. Mandatory funding at the level of one cent per meal served in the National School Lunch program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Summer Food Service Program would provide approximately \$70 million per year for integrated and comprehensive nutrition education and promotion programs coordinated at the national level, administered at the state level to meet unique state needs, disseminated to the local level based on prioritized community needs, and coordinated with school health programs.

