



April 13, 2011

Julie Brewer
Chief, Policy and Program Development Branch, Child Nutrition Division
Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 640
Alexandria, Virginia 22302-1594

Docket ID: FNS-2007-0038-001

Dear Ms. Brewer:

We, the undersigned members of the National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity, strongly support the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) proposed rule on nutrition standards for the school meal programs. Efforts to improve the nutritional quality of school lunches and breakfasts are essential to help end childhood obesity within a generation and help kids grow to be healthy adults.

We are pleased that USDA closely followed the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Nutrition Standards for National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs and the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. We support USDA's proposed improvements, including the following:

- Increasing the number of servings of fruits and vegetables served with meals, with an emphasis on a greater variety of vegetables and fewer starchy vegetables, like French fries;
- Ensuring all grains served in the school lunch and breakfast programs are rich in whole grains;
- Serving only milk that is fat-free or low-fat;
- Lowering sodium in meals over time;
- Ensuring schools are regularly reviewed to assess compliance with the new nutrition standards; and
- Providing training and technical assistance and supporting nutrition education and promotion efforts, as soon as possible, to help schools implement the meal changes by the start of the 2012 school year.

Given the high obesity rates among children and the important role school meals play in children's diets, once implemented, these updated standards will make an important contribution to improved dietary intake and the long-term health of millions of children across the country. Implementation of this new rule also should ensure consistency with efforts by schools and other nutrition, health, education, and anti-hunger stakeholders to reach the largest possible number of students with the benefits of healthy school nutrition.

We applaud USDA for these important efforts and urge full implementation within the USDA proposed time line to ensure children have greater access to nutritious meals and school food service staff benefit from the training and technical assistance needed to implement the changes.

Respectfully,

A World Fit For Kids!

Advocates for Better Children's Diets

Alliance to End Hunger

American Association for Health
Education

American Association on Health and
Disability

American Cancer Society Cancer
Action Network

American Diabetes Association

American Dietetic Association

American Heart Association

American Institute for Cancer
Research

American Public Health Association

American Society of Bariatric
Physicians

Association of State and Territorial
Public Health Nutrition Directors

Bread for the World

Campaign to End Obesity Action
Fund

Center for Communications, Health
and the Environment

Colorado Children's Campaign

Consortium to Lower Obesity in
Chicago Children

Consumer Federation of America

Directors of Health Promotion and
Education

Defeat Diabetes Foundation

Earth Day Network

Elyria City Health District

Feeding America

First Focus	National Consumers League
Focus on Agriculture in Rural Maine Schools	National Physicians Alliance
FoodPlay Productions	National WIC Association
Healthy Schools Campaign	Nemours
Healthcare Leadership Council	New York State Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Alliance
HUMAN Healthy Vending	Obesity Action Coalition
Integrated Healthcare Policy Consortium	Oral Health America
Iowa Public Health Association	Oregon Public Health Institute
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California	Partnership for Prevention
League of United Latin American Citizens	Preventative Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Massachusetts Public Health Association	Produce Marketing Association
Maternity Care Coalition	Prostate Cancer Awareness Project
National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health	Public Health Institute
National Association for Sport and Physical Education	Save the Children
National Association of County and City Health Officials	Society for Nutrition Education
National Association of School Nurses	Society of State Leaders of Health and Physical Education
National Association of State Boards of Education	The SPARK Programs
	Trust for America's Health
	Young People's Healthy Heart Program