



2010 LEGISLATIVE ISSUE PAPER

President Obama proposed an additional \$1 billion for Child Nutrition Reauthorization to eliminate childhood hunger and serve our children. SNA believes every penny of this increase – and more – is needed to make additional improvements in child nutrition programs. Therefore, SNA urges Congress to increase funding for child nutrition. SNA's priorities for Reauthorization include:

TOP PRIORITIES

- Expand the “free” meal category from 130% of poverty to 185%, consistent with the WIC income eligibility guidelines (eliminating the reduced price meal category).
- Increase the per meal reimbursement for all meals in order to keep pace with rising costs and implementation of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. The current Federal reimbursement of \$2.68 for a “free” school lunch is 35 cents less than the average cost of production.
- Require the Secretary to establish a consistent national application of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*, for all reimbursable meals, in accordance with recommendations of the Institute of Medicine (IOM), which benefited from SNA's Recommendations for National Nutrition Standards.
- Grant the Secretary the statutory authority to regulate the sale of all foods and beverages on the school campus, consistent with the most recent edition of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*, in accordance with SNA's Recommendations for National Nutrition Standards and the recommendations of IOM (ending the “time and place” rule).
- Require the Secretary to determine which school expenses and indirect costs can be paid for with school food service funds.

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

FUNDING

- Allow for community eligibility in high poverty areas.
- Provide 10 cents in USDA commodities for each school breakfast served.
- Expand after school and summer meal programs.
- Re-establish entitlement funding for equipment assistance in all schools.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

- Require the Secretary to establish an expedited food safety coordination and recall communication system.
- Address childhood obesity by establishing an effective nutrition education curriculum and increasing the consumption of fruits, vegetables and whole grains.
- Utilize technology to simplify program administration and enhance financial accountability.
- Establish a seamless application and reimbursement process for all school, preschool and child care food programs.
- Maximize the use of direct certification and direct verification.