

# *Congressional Candidate Questionnaire*

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## **School Nutrition Association**

To help the constituents of your state/district make a well-informed choice in the upcoming election, I am asking you to respond to the following four questions regarding your views on the federal child nutrition programs. Feel free to expand on your answers. Your answers will be shared with members of our organizations and other organizations who care about child nutrition.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

1. School meal programs are currently performance-based (per meal reimbursements) mandatory programs. This is essential to maintain the integrity and predictability of program funding. To ensure the stability and continuity of child nutrition programs, adequate funds must be made available.

Do you support the federal commitment to provide nutritious meals to children as part of the comprehensive education program and commit to continuation of adequate funding for this purpose?

**Yes**            **No**

**Comments:**

2. Current federal law requires that school meals be consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and reflect the Food Guide Pyramid. This national standard is intended to ensure that all children, regardless of where they live, receive meals at school that are designed to meet the scientifically validated measures sufficient for good health, growth and well-being.

Do you support national nutrition standards for foods available to children that would ensure the nutritional integrity of child nutrition programs throughout the overall school environment?

**Yes**            **No**

**Comments:**

3. Under current law, the Secretary of Agriculture may only regulate foods sold in the school cafeteria during meal periods. As a result, there has been a proliferation of other sales. Childhood obesity and under-nutrition (obesity does not imply adequate nutrition) are a national epidemic. Research points to two factors as the primary cause - insufficient activity and over-consumption of non-nutrient rich foods, empty calories. Schools should be places that exemplify appropriate activities and teach life-long healthy behaviors.

Are you willing to support legislation that grants the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to regulate all food served in schools participating in the National School Lunch Program throughout the school until the end of the school day?

**Yes**            **No**

**Comments:**

4. Current law authorizes but does not mandate funding for nutrition education in schools at 50¢ per enrolled child per year. Research shows that an effective nutrition education program in schools which includes the school cafeteria as part of the overall educational environment leads to improved eating habits among children. Investment in teaching appropriate eating habits at an early age will be returned in decreased health costs later in life.

Do you support adequate funding to ensure that nutrition education is an integral part of a comprehensive school curriculum?

**Yes**            **No**

**Comments:**

## ***Campaign 200***

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