

## SUGGESTED REVISIONS FOR CHILD NUTRITION REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Since 1946 the Child Nutrition Act has allowed schools to provide nutritious meals to school age students, “as a measure of national security, to safeguard the health and well being of the Nation’s children, and to encourage the domestic consumption of nutritious agricultural commodities.” While the purpose is the same, the needs of the Nation’s children have changed along with the program’s needs. The Nation currently faces an obesity epidemic among our children with increasing demands to the school meal program and increased costs. We believe that the 2009 Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act could be significantly improved, and that it needs to be fully funded in order to improve the nutritional content and quality of the meals provided to students.

The following are recommendations for revisions to the 2009 Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act as it is being considered for reauthorization.

1. Increase funding for better food
  - a. Increase in per meal reimbursement
  - b. Update Federal meal reimbursement semi-annually
  - c. Expand free meal category from 130% of poverty level to 185% consistent with WIC income eligibility guidelines (eliminate reduced price category)
  - d. Provide USDA commodity value for breakfast
  - e. Increase funding for after school snack program
2. Differentiate reimbursement and eligibility rates based on State’s cost of living. Extend reimbursement and eligibility rates of Alaska and Hawaii to States like California with higher cost of living expenses.
3. Continue funding for equipment to allow for consistent facility and program improvement
4. Improve Nutrition Standards
  - a. Grant Secretary of Agriculture the authority to regulate the sale of all food and beverages on school campuses
  - b. Require implementation of consistent, science based nutrition standards for meal programs
5. Support changes in procurement procedures to allow for local sourcing.
6. Support Nutrition Education in the classroom.
7. Simplify paperwork requirements for program administrators and families.
8. Provide funding for staff training. In order to continue improvements in school meal programs, staff must be trained in new techniques, nutrition education, etc.