



Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 School Meals

Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids (HHFK) Act

- **Championed by the First Lady as part of her *Let's Move!* initiative to solve the problem of childhood obesity within a generation.**
- HHFK law contains many provisions that help improve child nutrition programs and make meals and offerings more nutritious.
- **Helps transform school food environment in order to promote better nutrition and reduce obesity.**
- The Act reauthorized our core **Child Nutrition Programs** – National School Lunch, School Breakfast, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Summer Food Service Programs – as well as WIC.
- These programs are primarily **designed to feed kids nutritious meals and to combat childhood hunger.**
- HHFK law enabled us to make major improvements to school meals and bring them in line with the latest nutritional science and the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
- First major changes in over 15 years. These changes are important to the 32 million students who eat a school lunch and 12 million who eat a school breakfast each school day.

Updated Standards for School Meals

- **In January 2012, just one year after the law was signed by President Obama, we issued the final, updated standards for school meals.**
- **Those standards, built upon recommendations from the Institute of Medicine:**
 - Ensure students are offered both fruits and vegetables every day of the week;
 - Increase offerings of whole grain-rich foods;
 - Offer only fat-free or low-fat milk;
 - Limit calories based on the age of children being served to ensure proper portion size;
 - Increase the focus on reducing the amounts of saturated fat, trans fats, added sugars, and sodium.

- The new standards went into effect on July 1, but many schools were already well on their way to meeting the standards.
- Changes in the standards for **School Breakfast will be phased in** over three years to make it easier for schools to comply.
- The Act also strengthened **local school wellness policies**. We know that these can be a powerful force for change in many communities, and the HHFKA now requires more engagement from the local level so that these do not just become a paper that gets filed away in a drawer somewhere.
- We have also put in place the so-called “6-cent rule,” that reimburses schools an additional 6 cents for each lunch they serve that meets the new meal standards.
- The additional funds will be an **incentive to schools** to make improvements.
- This is the **first increase above inflation in over 30 years**. Money will begin flowing to schools across the country this year.
- USDA is fully committed to providing all the assistance we can to help schools get from where they are to where they need to be.

Community Eligibility

- Ready access to nutritious food is essential and we announced this spring that additional states (New York, Ohio, West Virginia and the District of Columbia) will be allowed to use the innovative option of “community eligibility” for school meal programs.
Community eligibility reduces the burden on families by eliminating household school meal applications and helps schools cut down on burdensome paperwork.

To learn more about the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010, please visit:

http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/legislation/cnr_2010.htm

