



JACKSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Food Service Department
125 North Hope Chapel Road
Jackson, NJ 08527
(732) 415-7014
FAX (732) 415-7099

Thomas Gialanella
Superintendent of Schools

Joseph A. Immordino
Food Service Director

Dear Parents/Gaurdians,

In a major step toward providing all children with healthy food in schools, President Obama signed the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, also known as Child Nutrition Reauthorization 2010, into law on December 13, 2010.

The Jackson Food Service Department believes the Act is a step in the right direction to help provide children with healthier and more nutritious food options and educate children about making healthy food choices. It will also give more children access to school meal programs.

The main goals of the legislation are to combat childhood hunger and obesity. The law will:

- **Improve nutritional quality and safety of meals** – allows the Secretary of Agriculture to set nutrition standards for all food sold in the school building throughout the school day and also establishes food safety requirements.
- **Increase access to child nutrition programs** – streamlines direct certification of free and reduced eligibility, ensures that more than 100,000 children on Medicaid are eligible for free, nutritious lunches and allows 20 million additional healthy after-school meals to be served annually in all 50 states.
- **Increase meal reimbursement** for schools that meet the updated nutrition standards for breakfast and lunch and increase the federal reimbursement rate for school lunches by 6 cents per meal provided the new nutrition standards are met.
- **Provide school lunch price equity** – establishes a procedure that allows school districts to raise school lunch prices over time.
- **Promote environmental sustainability and farm-to-school programs** – ensures that more local foods are used in the school setting and provides funding for farm-to-school programs.

The USDA will work with states, school districts and communities to implement the provisions of the Act. The timing is different for each provision; however, a good rule of thumb is to assume that the new nutrition standards will need to be in place by October 2012 and the extra reimbursement will be available at that time for school districts that are compliant.

On January 13, 2011, the USDA unveiled critical upgrades to the nutritional standards for school meals. Our strategy is to align menus at all grade levels to meet the Jackson Food Service Department's Food and Nutrition guidelines which meet or exceed the new USDA proposed standards. This will put Jackson School District in a position to meet the new USDA standards when they are finalized.

We will share additional information with you as it becomes available. In the meantime, please feel free to contact our Foodservice office with any questions.

Respectfully,

Joseph A. Immordino
Food Service Director
Jackson School District



CHILD NUTRITION REAUTHORIZATION HEALTHY, HUNGER-FREE KIDS ACT OF 2010

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 represents a major step forward in our nation's effort to provide all children with healthy food in schools. Increasingly schools are playing a central role in children's health. Over 31 million children receive meals through the school lunch program and many children receive most, if not all, of their meals at school. With over seventeen million children living in food insecure households and one out of every three children in America now considered overweight or obese, schools often are on the front lines of our national challenge to combat childhood obesity and improve children's overall health. This legislation includes significant improvements that will help provide children with healthier and more nutritious food options, educate children about making healthy food choices, and teach children healthy habits that can last a lifetime.

WHAT IS THE CHILD NUTRITION REAUTHORIZATION BILL?

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 authorizes funding for federal school meal and child nutrition programs and increases access to healthy food for low-income children. The bill that reauthorizes these programs is often referred to by shorthand as the child nutrition reauthorization bill. This particular bill reauthorizes child nutrition programs for five years and includes \$4.5 billion in new funding for these programs over 10 years.

Many of the programs featured in the Act do not have a specific expiration date, but Congress is periodically required to review and reauthorize funding. This reauthorization presents an important opportunity to strengthen programs to address more effectively the needs of our nation's children and young adults.

WHAT DOES IT DO?

Improves Nutrition and Focuses on Reducing Childhood Obesity

- **Gives USDA the authority to set nutritional standards** for all foods regularly sold in schools during the school day, including vending machines, the "a la carte" lunch lines, and school stores.
- **Provides additional funding to schools that meet updated nutritional standards** for federally-subsidized lunches. This is an historic investment, the first real reimbursement rate increase in over 30 years.
- **Helps communities establish local farm to school networks, create school gardens,** and ensures that more local foods are used in the school setting.
- **Builds on USDA work to improve nutritional quality of commodity foods** that schools receive from USDA and use in their breakfast and lunch programs.
- **Expands access to drinking water** in schools, particularly during meal times.

- **Sets basic standards for school wellness policies** including goals for nutrition promotion and education and physical activity, while still permitting local flexibility to tailor the policies to their particular needs.
- **Promotes nutrition and wellness in child care settings** through the federally-subsidized Child and Adult Care Food Program.
- **Expands support for breastfeeding** through the WIC program.

Increases Access

- **Increases the number of eligible children enrolled in school meal programs by approximately 115,000 students** by using Medicaid data to directly certify children who meet income requirements.
- **Helps certify an average additional 4,500 students per year** to receive school meals by setting benchmarks for states to improve the certification process.
- **Allows more universal meal access for eligible students** in high poverty communities by eliminating paper applications and using census data to determine school-wide income eligibility.
- **Expands USDA authority to support meals** served to at-risk children in afterschool programs.

Increases Program Monitoring and Integrity

- **Requires school districts to be audited every three years** to improve compliance with nutritional standards.
- **Requires schools to make information more readily available** to parents about the nutritional quality of meals.
- **Includes provisions to ensure the safety of school foods** like improving recall procedures and extending hazard analysis and food safety requirements for school meals throughout the campus.
- **Provides training and technical assistance** for school food service providers.

WHAT IS THE TIME FRAME?

USDA will work with states, school districts and neighborhoods to implement the provisions of the bill and Americans will start to see changes in their communities over time.