

CSPI RFP Webinar – School Foods



Noelle Battle, Grants Manager
Meghan Maroney, Senior Policy Associate

Logistics for Today's Webinar

- Introduce yourself – add your name and organization in the chat
- Please keep your microphone on mute
- We will have an approximately 30-minute presentation followed by 1 hour for Q&A and discussion
- All questions should be asked through the chat, where people will be monitoring them and helping to facilitate the conversation

Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI)

Since 1971, CSPI has worked to:

- Make it easier to eat healthfully
- Prevent and mitigate diet- and obesity-related diseases

Our Strategies:

- National, state, local policy
- Education (newsletter, social media)
- Advocacy (regulatory, legislative)
- Litigation



Background on the opportunity

Bloomberg Philanthropies has awarded CSPI a grant to lead a national advocacy initiative to secure state and local food and nutrition policies that improve public health and provide models that can be replicated and scaled.

As a part of that initiative, CSPI is soliciting applications from state and local advocates to advance innovative policies to measurably improve the food environments in:

- Schools
- Restaurants
- Grocery stores and
- Federal, state, and local programs

Our goal is to support public health for all, and to address health inequities that unjustly affect low-income families and communities of color.



Current Campaign Opportunities

- Exploring new strategies for strengthening the nutrition and public health impacts of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Campaigns that aim to ensure healthy, equitable school meals for all students.
- Campaigns that aim to ensure healthy, equitable restaurant kids' meals for all.
- Campaigns to extend restaurant menu disclosures to improve nutritional quality of restaurant purchases.

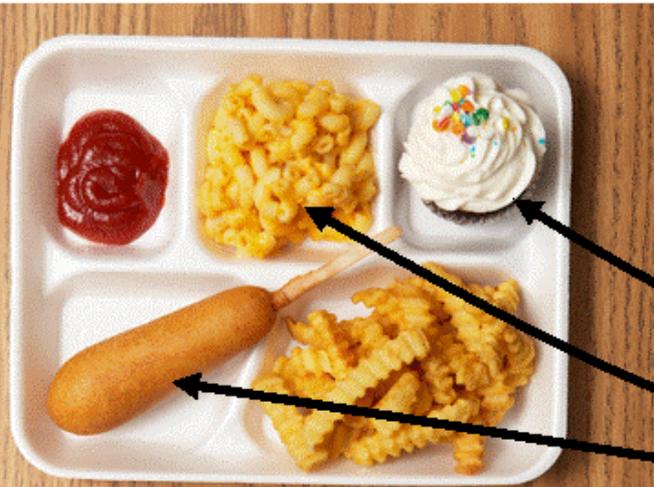
Strong school nutrition standards are important for low-income children



- ✓ Help to reduce disparities
- ✓ Help to reduce stigma
- ✓ Decrease obesity among low-income students

The School Day Just Got Healthier!

Before



Under the new nutrition standards,
school lunches have:

Less unhealthy fat

Less salt

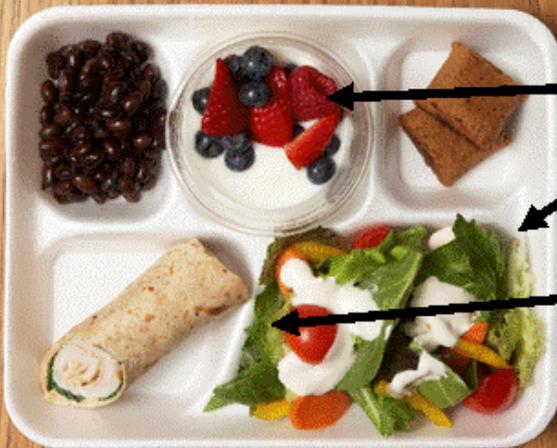
Fewer calories

Low and non fat dairy

Double fruits and veggies

More whole grains

After



2017 Proposed Rule

Sodium

Grade Group	Target 1 (mg) HHFKA Deadline: SY 2014-2015	Target 2 (mg) HHFKA Deadline: SY 2017-18 New Deadline: SY 2021-2022	Target 3 (mg) HHFKA Deadline: SY 2022-23
Breakfast			
K-5	≤ 540	≤ 485	≤ 430
6-8	≤ 600	≤ 535	≤ 470
9-12	≤ 640	≤ 570	≤ 500
Lunch			
K-5	≤ 1,230	≤ 935	≤ 640
6-8	≤ 1,360	≤ 1,035	≤ 710
9-12	≤ 1,420	≤ 1,080	≤ 740

Whole Grains (**waivers continued**)



51% WG
pancake



51% WG
English
muffin



51% WG
Sandwich bread



51% WG
tortilla



51% WG
pasta



**White biscuit
(pending waiver
approval)**

2018 Final Rule

Sodium

Grade Group	Target 1 (mg) HHFKA Deadline: SY 2014-2015	Target 2 (mg) HHFKA Deadline: SY 2017-18 New Deadline: SY 2024-2025	Target 3 (mg) HHFKA Deadline: SY 2022-23 Eliminated
Breakfast			
K-5	≤ 540	≤ 485	≤ 430
6-8	≤ 600	≤ 535	≤ 470
9-12	≤ 640	≤ 570	≤ 500
Lunch			
K-5	≤ 1,230	≤ 935	≤ 640
6-8	≤ 1,360	≤ 1,035	≤ 710
9-12	≤ 1,420	≤ 1,080	≤ 740

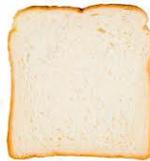
Whole Grains (50% whole grain-rich; no waivers required)



51% WG
pancake



51% WG
English
muffin



White
sandwich bread



White flour
tortilla



51% WG
pasta



White
biscuit

CSPI and Healthy School Food Maryland Sue to Stop USDA's Weakening of Nutrition Standards for School Meals

Trump Administration Rollback of Sodium and Whole Grain
School Nutrition Standards Standards Violates Law and
Puts Children's Health at Risk

**The
New York
Times**

Court Strikes Down Trump Rollback of School Nutrition Rules

A federal district judge has ruled that the Agriculture
Department's regulation easing sodium and whole-grain
standards in school meals violated regulatory law.



**Court blocks Trump administration
rollback of some school nutrition
standards**

November 2020 Proposed Rule

Reinstates:

- Sodium rollback
- Whole grain rollback
- Flavored milk rollback

January 2020 Proposed Rule

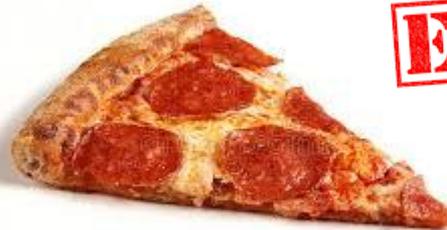
Breakfast



Vegetables



A la Carte



EXEMPT



January 2020 Proposed Rule, continued

Same meal pattern

Administrative Review



New Challenges



Universal School Meals

“

Without meeting [basic physiological needs] people can't engage in learning, the universal meals bill is a way to catch people that fall into the gaps.

- Dr. Jandel Crutchfield, Assisant Professor of Social Work



“

Maya Angelou once said “when you know better, do better.” We know the need, how onerous and flawed the system is. Let's do better. That's what the Pandemic Child Hunger Prevention Act is all about - doing better for our kids.

- Dr. Susan Enfield, Superintendent



“

We provide kids the tools they need to learn, including books and transportation; but why do we stop at food?

- Bertrand Weber, Director Culinary and Wellness Service Minneapolis Public Schools



“

Food insecurity can be silent and [universal meals] takes away the stigma, allowing all children to have access regardless of socioeconomic status.

- Dr. Kimberly Montez, Vice Chair AAP Council on Community Pediatrics



Applicants **Must** Address the Following to be Considered:

Policy intervention: Seek to secure a policy (including, for example, a bill, executive order, school board policy, etc.). Voluntary or programmatic initiatives are not eligible. Policies must feature the following provisions:

- ❖ **Meal Patterns and Quantities:** Require at a minimum, the nutrition standards and meal patterns, including food components and quantities, established in the 2012 school meals final rule, *Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs*.
- ❖ **Competitive Foods:** Require at a minimum, the 2016 national competitive foods standards ([Smart Snacks](#)), the *National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program - Nutrition Standards for All Foods Sold in School*.
- ❖ **Sodium:** Re-instate the tiered sodium-reduction targets within a feasible timetable and include a “Target 4” for school meals consistent with the National Academies of Sciences Engineering, and Medicine’s [Dietary Reference Intakes for Sodium](#) (issued March 2019).
- ❖ **Whole Grains:** Establish a timetable for all grains offered to be whole-grain-rich (51 percent whole grain; consistent with the 2012 school meals final rule, *Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs*).
- ❖ **Added Sugars:** Establish an added sugar limit for school meals and competitive foods in alignment with the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans and strongly encourage barring the use of unsafe non-nutritive sweeteners.

Applicants are **Strongly Encouraged** to Address the Following:

- ❖ **Universal free meals:** Contingent upon state funding, require all students, regardless of household income, be eligible to receive a breakfast and/or lunch at school (or from the school for those using e-learning approaches) free of charge.
- ❖ **Engaging Legislators on Child Nutrition Reauthorization:** Activities may include sending action alerts, placing an op ed or letter to the editor in strategic publications, and participating in grasstops meetings.

Applicants are also **Encouraged** to Address the Following:

- ❖ **Increased Reimbursement and Technical Assistance on nutrition standards:** Contingent upon state funding, provide increased reimbursement to incentivize schools to meet stronger nutrition standards and provide robust state agency technical assistance.
- ❖ **Seat time/mealtime requirements:** Require minimum seat time or meal period to ensure sufficient time to eat (e.g. 20 minutes in seat), and reasonably timed meal periods (e.g. lunch after 11am and before 2 pm).
- ❖ **Eliminate artificial food dyes:** Require phasing out of artificial food dyes which cause adverse behavioral effects in children.
- ❖ **Funding for kitchen equipment:** Contingent upon state funding, provide kitchen equipment grants for upgrades, repairs, and maintenance.
- ❖ **Summer Meals:** Require all summer meals meet standards consistent with those for breakfast and lunch served during the school year.

Key Application Priorities

We are specifically looking to fund applications that:

- Include community or field organizing and grassroots engagement.
- Incorporate a strong focus on equity in all aspects of the campaign.
- Are from diverse organizations who are either representative of the population for which a policy is focused, or are directly partnering with individuals and or community organizations representing the population.
- Include a robust media and public communications plan (if applicable).
- Sufficiently assess potential obstacles to achieving project goals and provide mitigating strategies.
- Include identification of possible policy champions within state and local government.

Available Resources from CSPI

At CSPI, we have several ways which we aim to support grantees, including:

- Sharing of and collaboration on toolkits, messaging research, and communications materials.
- Providing staff and some additional financial support for digital engagement and paid media.
- Technical assistance on policy and science as well as support from staff as spokespeople with the media, testimony, and articles.
- Support with grassroots organizing, grasstops engagement, and coalition building.
- Support with state and federal lobbying.

Next Steps

- CSPI will circulate responses to questions / follow-up as needed
- Please submit your applications via the Common Grant platform by December 31st, 2020
- Contact our CSPI team if you have specific questions or want to discuss a campaign idea
- Grant periods will begin in January or February 2021 with current funding available through January 31st, 2022

For more information:

General RFP or application inquiries:

Noelle Battle

Grants Manager

nbattle@cspinet.org

Specific policy/campaign related questions:

Meghan Maroney

Senior Policy Associate

mmaroney@cspinet.org

Technical questions regarding Common Grant Platform:

info@commongrantapplication.com