

National Security

School food, unlike most aspects of education, has long been regulated at the federal level, a heritage that dates back to the Truman Administration.¹ Born from revelations about undernutrition in potential military recruits, providing healthful meals to the country's youth was seen as vital to national security.² Today, with overweight and chronic disease seen in a large number of young people, healthy school food continues to be essential to the nation's health and security.³

¹ Public Law 396, 79th Congress, June 4, 1946, 60 Stat. 231.

² Gunderson G. *National School Lunch Program, Background and Development*. www.fns.usda.gov/nslp/history, revised 6/17/14.

³ Mission Readiness, *Ready, Willing, and Unable to Serve*, 2014. bit.ly/1cCmmPE.



A Funded Program

Far from being an unfunded mandate, the Federal government sends \$15 billion a year to states to help schools meet their educational goals: well-fed children learn better.⁴ Unlike other aspects of education, the federal government provides the biggest share of school food funding.⁵ States and localities contribute less than ten percent of school meal revenues. Selling unhealthy food in schools undermines this important taxpayer investment.

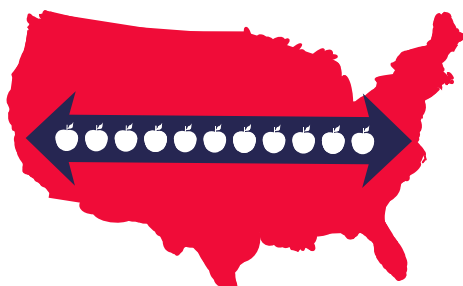
⁴ Hoyland A, Dye L, Lawton CL. A systematic review of the effect of breakfast on the cognitive performance of children and adolescents. *Nutrition Research Reviews* 2009; 22:220-243.

⁵ Bartlett S, et al. *School Lunch and Breakfast Cost Study-II, Final Report*. USDA, FNS, Office of Research, Nutrition and Analysis; Alexandria, VA: 2008.



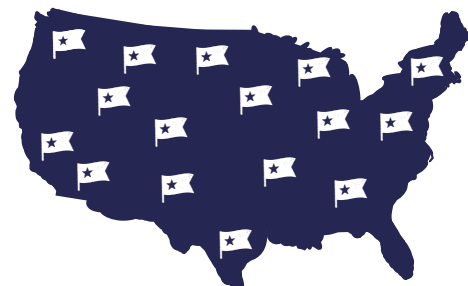
Kids Across the Country Deserve Healthy Food

The nutritional needs of children are the same from Virginia to California. Local schools decide which foods to include on their menus, taking local foodways into account. Many food service directors have successfully incorporated regional and ethnic foods into their menus while ensuring that healthy guidelines are met.



Parents Are the Ultimate Source of Local Control

Parents are the ultimate source of local control, and parents want healthy food in schools. A national survey by the Pew Charitable Trusts found that most parents are concerned with the state of children's health (80%) and childhood obesity (74%).⁶ Three quarters of parents favor national standards for school meals (72%). Parents think healthy school meals are important and they want them for their kids.



⁶ Hart Research Associates, *Nationwide Polling Regarding Parents' Views of School Meal and Smart Snacks Standards*. Pew Charitable Trusts; Washington, DC: 2014. bit.ly/1EuiVZA.