



**Society for Nutrition Education
Action Alert
September 22, 2008**

The SNE-ACPP-Child Nutrition Reauthorization-Nutrition in Schools Subcommittee would like to share with SNE members the comments SNE submitted to the USDA in response to the Agency's request for comments on the 2009 Child Nutrition Reauthorization published in the Federal Register on May 20, 2008.

SNE's Recommendations

SNE believes that the following recommendations will not only develop a seamless and comprehensive Team Nutrition Network (TNN) but also provide program stability through mandatory funding. Specifically, SNE proposes that as part of the process Congress eliminate Section 5 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (NSLA), Nutrition Promotion, and revise some of the language in Section 19 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (CNA), TNN.

This change is critical and urgent, because Congress supported nutrition promotion and education by authorizing nutrition promotion and TNN in the Child Nutrition and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Reauthorization Act of 2004. Yet, the authorized funds have not been appropriated for the activities required by the legislation.

Consequently, in the four years since the passage of this legislation, Congress' vision for nutrition education and promotion has not been implemented. Making these revisions will also clarify and refocus actions to improve nutrition education and promotion.

Under Section 19 of the 2004 Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act, states should continue to submit a state plan in order to qualify for TNN program funding.

A consolidated, comprehensive TNN should include funding for:

1. A state-based TNN Coordinator in each state to serve as a central point of contact at the state level;
2. Resources to allow the TNN Coordinator to administer and conduct nutrition promotion and education activities, to disseminate funds to local agencies, promote partnerships, and provide communication links from federal to local agencies, including the dissemination of and technical assistance for Team Nutrition materials and other effective initiatives;
3. USDA-FNS to develop materials, provide technical assistance, coordinate evaluation, and oversee all state activities; and
4. Research on TNN materials and program effectiveness, including the role and impact of the nutrition education specialist.

Further explanation and recommended funding levels for each of the four proposed components can be found in the attached document.

What You Can Do...

SNE encourages members to voice their support and concerns for the 2009 Reauthorization of Child Nutrition Programs, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Programs for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. Comments are due no later than October 15th, 2008.

Individuals may submit comments electronically through regulations.gov or fax to 703-305-2879 or by mail to: Mr. Robert M. Eadie, Chief, Policy and Program Development Branch, Child Nutrition Division, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 640, Alexandria, Virginia, 22302-1594.

Members can include SNE's recommendations in their own comments to bolster support for a consolidated and comprehensive Team Nutrition Network. In addition, members can comment on other Child Nutrition Reauthorization issues, such as strengthening nutrition education in WIC or improving the nutrition standards in all child nutrition programs. SNE is in the process of developing positions and the appropriate advocacy approaches that complement SNE's nutrition in schools recommendation and overall mission to enhance nutrition education and promotion in all child nutrition programs.

Thanks for taking the time to contribute your invaluable comments to USDA on critical nutrition programs and a significant legislative process.

carpe diem,

The SNE-ACPP-Child Nutrition Reauthorization-Nutrition in Schools Subcommittee

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