

## **Fact Sheet on S. 3307, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act**

### **Overview**

S. 3307, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, reauthorizes programs under the Child Nutrition Act. These programs include school breakfasts and lunches, local wellness policies, the Summer Food Service Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). At a time when one-third of American youth are either overweight or obese and one-fourth are at risk of hunger, this legislation makes a significant investment to increase access to vital anti-hunger measures, improve the nutrition quality of all foods served in schools throughout the school day, and provide a wide variety of supports necessary for school food service workers to meet the needs of American children.

### **Key Provisions**

- Increases school lunch reimbursement rates, contingent upon meeting new meal standards, by 6 cents per meal. This is the first increase in reimbursement rates other than inflationary increases since 1973.
- Establishes nutrition standards for all foods sold in schools throughout the school day, including vending machines, school stores and a la carte menus. Periodic school group fundraisers and events held before or after the school day are exempted. This is the first time nutrition standards for “competitive foods” in schools will be updated since 1979.
- Strengthens local wellness policies by requiring opportunities for public input and transparency in the formulation of the policies, as well as plans for implementation and measuring compliance.

## **Key Provisions (cont'd.)**

- Provides \$40 million in mandatory funding to help schools establish school gardens and source local foods in their cafeterias.
- Connects more eligible low-income children with school meals by expanding the direct certification process and establishing benchmarks for states to directly certify eligible children that are already enrolled in other federal programs with the same or more stringent eligibility requirements.
- Automatically enrolls foster children for free school meals.
- Promotes the availability and locations of summer meal and breakfast sites.
- Provides additional training for all local food service personnel and establishes qualification standards for individuals charged with operating school breakfast and lunch programs at the state and local level.
- Strengthens food safety protections in school meals programs and aids in the rapid removal of dangerous foods from schools in the event of a recall.
- Ensures that federal reimbursements intended to feed low-income children go toward their explicit purpose and not other aspects of the school budget.
- Establishes nutrition requirements for child care providers participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program and provides guidance and technical assistance to help them care for the well-being of young children.
- Provides increased supports for sites administering after-school meal programs.

## **Next Steps**

National PTA will be closely involved with the implementation of these reforms and improvements in order to ensure that parents and communities remain informed of issues affecting their children, school food service providers are given the support they need to meet the needs of students, and our children are being served the high-quality nutritious offerings in school that they need to meet their full potential. Please contact James Vanderhook, Health Policy Analyst, at [jvanderhook@pta.org](mailto:jvanderhook@pta.org) or (703) 518-1200, ext. 3331, with any questions.