

January 18, 2011

Mr. Joseph Torsella  
State Board of Education  
333 Market Street, 1<sup>st</sup> floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17126

Dear Chairman Torsella:

**Subject: Chapter 12 (Students and Student Services)**

President Obama recently signed into law the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HH-FK). Under HH-FK, there will be revised standards for school meal programs, and the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture is directed to develop nutritional standards for competitive foods with which National School Lunch participants will be mandated to follow. These new mandatory standards will be premised on new developments in nutrition science, including the Institute of Medicine's recommendations.

The new federal law also mandates new local school wellness policies by updating the requirements of the policies, and requiring opportunities for public input, transparency, and an implementation plan. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is required to issue revised regulations that include new guidelines for wellness policies.


New nutrition standards for school meals were released by the USDA last week on Thursday, January 13. The proposed rule establishes maximum and minimum calorie levels; increases the amount and variety of fruits and vegetables; limits milk to low-fat white milk or nonfat white or flavored milk; imposes a food-based menu planning approach; reduces sodium over the next ten years; and minimizes trans fat.

Implementing the provisions of HH-FK, new nutrition standards for school meals and forthcoming mandatory standards for competitive school foods will mean significant changes for all schools. Imposing state regulations would only impose additional burden on for school food service departments.

We therefore urge the Board not to proceed with the proposed regulation on school nutrition, Chapter 12 (Students and Student Services). While recognizing the interest of the Board with regard to child nutrition, we believe that the federal requirements will be sufficient and appropriate as a means of promoting and making available to students healthy choices.

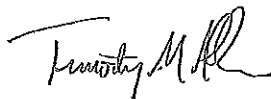
Thank you for considering our request. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



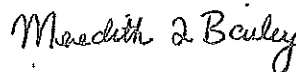
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Jhv

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