

Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010

A Summary for NEA members

The Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA) of 2010, a reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act, provides funding for federal school meal and child nutrition programs, increases access to healthy food, and promotes overall student wellness. By supporting school and community efforts that provide nutritious meals for children and promote overall wellness, the HHFKA is a major step forward in the fight to end childhood hunger, improve nutrition, and fight our country's epidemic of obesity.

The origins of this bill date to the National School Lunch Act (NSLA), signed into law by Harry S. Truman in 1946. In 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the first Child Nutrition Act (CNA). The CNA of 1966 expanded the School Lunch Program, established the School Breakfast Program, extended the Special Milk Program, and provided Federal funding towards non-food school equipment purchases.

The HHFKA of 2010 includes \$4.5 billion in new funding for its programs and provisions over a 10 year period. The bill gives the USDA the authority to set new nutrition standards for food sold and served in schools, and requires training and certification for all food service personnel.

The HHFKA is a complex piece of legislation, with a great number of provisions which will not be fully implemented for several years. Here are some parts of the bill that may be important to NEA members.

The HHFKA will help end childhood hunger by:

- Expanding after school meals for at-risk children
- Expanding universal meal service through community eligibility
- Connecting more eligible low-income children with school meals through expanding direct certification

The HHFKA will improve student health and reduce obesity by:

- Establishing national nutrition standards for all foods sold in school during the school day, including a la carte lines and vending machines (note that the Act does not ban fundraisers such as bake sales, etc., held outside of the school day)
- Strengthening local school wellness policies and school food safety programs
- Developing model product specifications for USDA commodity foods used in school meals

The HHFKA will improve training and support the professionalism of food service employees by:

- Establishing training requirements for Food Service Directors
- Requiring annual training in administrative procedures (including certification, verification, meal counting, and meal claiming procedures) for one person in each LEA
- Requiring annual training and certification for all local food service personnel in procedures to ensure program compliance and integrity, and in nutrition, health and food safety standards and methods

The HHFKA contains increased funding and changes in financial rules, including:

- \$4.5 billion in new funding over the next 10 years
- An additional 6 cents/meal in meal reimbursement for school nutrition programs that comply with the new meal pattern requirements
- Mandatory phased-in increases in the price that school nutrition programs charge for paid meals (ones that are not free or reduced-price), up to a price that is equal to the difference between free meal reimbursement and paid meal reimbursement

The HHFKA establishes studies, pilot programs and grant programs to help develop better ways to improve student health and nutrition, including:

- A major grant program (\$375 million per year) for nutrition education and obesity prevention
- Grants for expanding school breakfast programs and for supporting summer food service programs

- Smaller grant programs (up to \$5-10 million per year) for childhood hunger research, farm to school programs, organic foods, and research on strategies to promote the selection and consumption of healthy foods

Implementation of the HHFKA:

Some parts of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act will go into effect for the 2011-2012 school year, but many provisions will not take effect until the 2012-2013 school year or later. There are a number of areas in which regulations must be developed and adopted through a public rule-making process. During this implementation period the NEA will be working with all stakeholders to ensure that schools can succeed in meeting the CNA's goals of reducing childhood hunger, promoting health, and reducing childhood obesity.

For more information, contact the NEA Education Support Professional Quality Department, 202-822-7131.

