

**United Fresh Produce Association  
2010 Child Nutrition Reauthorization  
Policy Priorities**

Increasing the amount and variety of fruits and vegetables served in the School Lunch and Breakfast Programs will improve children's health and are critical investments in prevention and health care reform. The Institute of Medicine's (IOM) Report *School Meals: Building Blocks for Healthy Children* recommends doubling the amount of fruits and vegetables served in school meals and recognizes that serving more fruits, vegetables and whole grains will require a higher federal reimbursement rate. School meal standards must be aligned with the 2005 Dietary Guidelines; the IOM's Report provides specific recommendations to improve the healthfulness of school meals. United Fresh Produce Association recommends:

**1. National School Salad Bar Policy** - The USDA Secretary will encourage schools to offer salad bars at lunch as an evidence-based strategy to increase children's consumption of fruits and vegetables and provide incentives and training to schools to promote implementation. Salad bars are one of the simplest and most direct ways to increase children's consumption of fruits and vegetables in school lunch and are very popular with students

**2. Increase the reimbursement rate for school lunch and school breakfast** to enable schools to increase the amount and variety of fruits and vegetables served consistent with the IOMs recommendations and the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

**3. Significantly expand the commodity purchase of fresh and fresh-cut fruits and vegetables for school meals.** The USDA Secretary is urged to significantly expand the purchase of fresh and fresh-cut fruits and vegetables thru Section 32 funding by establishing yearly purchase targets and to make these produce items available to schools nationally. The USDA is urged to focus on fresh and fresh-cut fruits and vegetables that kids want to eat and will result in overall increased consumption of fruits and vegetables.

**4. Update Nutrition Standards for School Meals, Consistent with the Dietary Guidelines.** Based on the Institute of Medicine's *School Meals: Building Blocks for Healthier Children* Report, the USDA Secretary is urged to publish within 12 months a proposed rule and within 24 months a final rule to update the nutrition standards for school meals.

**5. Update Nutrition Standards for foods and beverages sold outside of school meals** (vending machines, a la carte, school stores, and other venues) to confirm to current nutrition science and apply these standards to the whole campus and for the full school day. Revised standards will improve children's nutrition and health and protect the Federal investment in the national school lunch and breakfast programs.