

**United Fresh Produce Association  
2009 Child Nutrition Reauthorization  
Policy Priorities**

Improving the healthfulness of school meals, increasing children's consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables in school meals, and improving the healthfulness of school food environments are top public policy priorities for the 2009 Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act. These priorities will improve children's health and are critical investments in prevention and health care reform. 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 very popular with students and one of the simplest and most direct ways to increase children's consumption of fruits and vegetables in school lunch.

**2. Increase the reimbursement rate for school lunch by \$.35 and for school breakfast by \$.20** to enable schools to serve healthier meals consistent with the Dietary Guidelines, including more fresh fruits and vegetables, and to reflect higher food and labor costs.

**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 recommendations from the Institute of Medicine's Review of National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns and Nutrient Standards, 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.