

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

Increasing children's consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables is a top public policy priority for United Fresh Produce Association in the 2009 Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act. We recommend:

1. National School Salad Bar Policy - The USDA Secretary is urged to encourage schools to offer salad bars and provide incentives and training to schools to promote implementation. Salad bars containing a variety of fruits and vegetables are one of the simplest and most direct ways to increase children's consumption of fruits and vegetables.

2. Increase by \$.35 the reimbursement rate for all school meals to enable schools to serve healthier meals, 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 schools. In response to schools requesting more fresh and fresh-cut fruits and vegetables, the USDA Secretary is urged to significantly expand the purchase of fresh and fresh-cut fruits and vegetables thru Section 32 funding and make these produce items available to schools nationally.

4. Allow funding for DOD Fresh Program up to \$100 million/year. The DoD Fresh Program makes it easy for schools to purchase a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables at the lowest cost delivered directly to the school.

5. 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.