



2013 LEGISLATIVE ISSUE PAPER

Since 1946, the National School Lunch Act has functioned successfully as a grant-in-aid program. We believe Congress has made the correct decision in exempting school nutrition programs from sequestration. We request that Congress continue to invest in our children by providing nutritious school meals under the current funding structure. It is this structure that has allowed the program to succeed and become a model for the world. With this sense of history, SNA makes the following recommendations to protect the nutritional health of our children:

- **SNA supports the elimination of the weekly limits on Grains and Meat/Meat Alternates served in the National School Lunch Program.** SNA strongly urges Congress and USDA to make this temporary solution for SY 2012-2013 permanent immediately.
- **SNA urges a delay in the implementation of the School Breakfast Program modifications pending resolution of outstanding issues related to the School Lunch Meal Pattern.** Upon implementation of the School Breakfast Program modifications, SNA urges the elimination of the weekly limits on Grains served in the School Breakfast Program and also recommends allowing full substitutability of Meat/Meat Alternates for Grains.
- **Section 205 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act mandates that certain School Food Authorities annually increase their paid meal prices regardless of their financial solvency.** SNA asks Congress to amend Section 205 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act by narrowing Section 205 to only those School Food Authorities that have a negative fund balance at the end of the previous school year.
- **Unpaid meal charges owed to the School Food Authority by participants in the program have increased significantly.** Congress should require USDA to establish a consistent national policy on how to address the debt incurred by the unpaid meal charges.