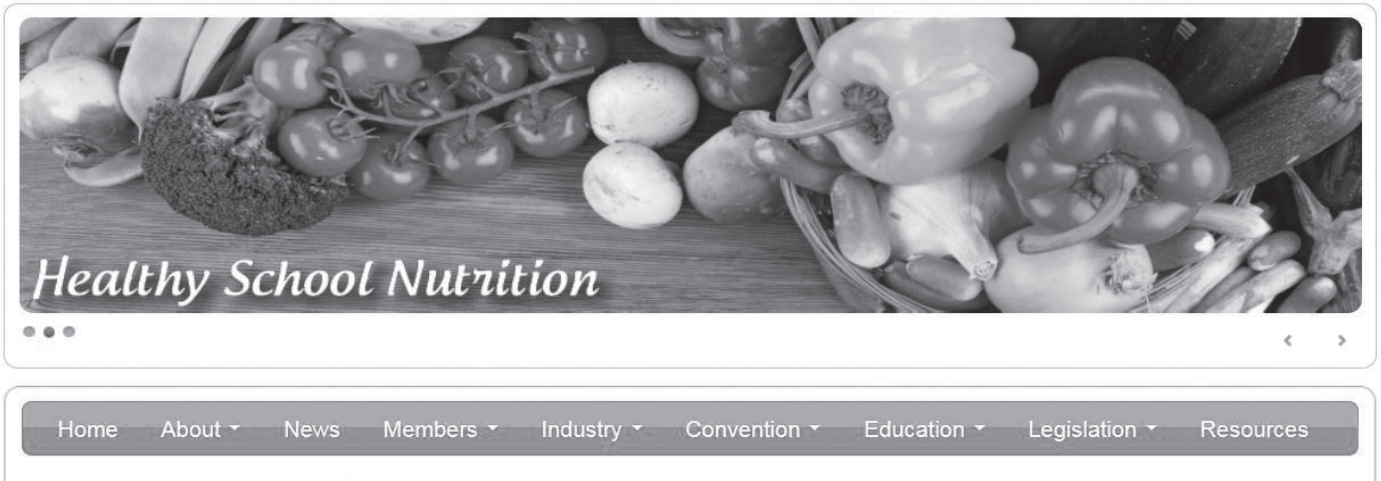


MdSNA Is On The Web



MdSNA Website Update - The History of Child Nutrition

In the Spring 2020 edition of the *Serving Spoon*, we covered events and legislation from the 1960's through 1970's. It was a very active decade for the Child Nutrition Programs. A lot of interest was generated in the programs and Congress started adding additional legislation which in many instances created new programs to add to the existing structure. That will seem slow paced as we continue to move forward.

In 1972 PL 92-433 was passed. It created the supplemental food program for **Women, Infants and Children (WIC)** which is continuing to grow in recipients and demand. The **school breakfast funding became performance funding** (i.e. based on actual costs and meals served) and prohibited the Secretary of Agriculture from prescribing **regulations prohibiting the sale of competitive foods.**

In 1975 PL 94-105 was created. I extracted the following sections from it to give you the exact wording of the law for these programs which may or may not change in the future.

1. **The Child Care Program** now allows Child Care Centers to enroll in a federal program to feed their students at the free, reduced price or paid rate.
2. The requirement in this section is that **each dollar of federal assistance shall be matched by \$3 from sources within the State** (with adjustments for the per capita income of the State) which shall not be applicable with respect to the payments made to participating schools **under section 4 of this Act for free and reduced-price lunches.**
3. **Nutrition and Health Policy** - It is the purpose and intent of Congress that the **School Breakfast Program** be made available in all schools where it is needed to provide adequate nutrition for children in attendance.
4. **Offer vs Serve** - Students in senior high schools that participate in the school lunch program under this Act shall not be required to accept offered foods which they do not intend to consume, and any such failure

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to accept offered foods shall not affect the full charge to the student for a lunch meeting the requirements of this subsection or the amount of payments made under this Act to any such school for such a lunch.

Special Summer Programs are described as follows - They provide food service similar to that available to children under the school lunch program or the school breakfast program under the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 during the school year. To the maximum extent feasible, consistent with the purposes of this section, special summer programs shall utilize the existing food service facilities of public and nonprofit private schools. Any eligible service institution shall receive the summer food program upon its request.

Nutrition Education and Training - The Secretary was authorized and directed to make cash grants to State educational agencies for the purpose of conducting **experimental or demonstration projects to teach school children the nutritional value of foods and the relationship of nutrition to human health.** This didn't go anywhere until the 1977 Public Law was released five years later.

In 1977 PL 95-166 was enacted. Its stated purpose is as follows:
1. "To amend the National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 in order to revise and extend the summer food program, to revise the special milk program, to revise the school breakfast program, to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a program of nutrition information and education as part of food service programs for children conducted under such Acts, and for other purposes". The main purpose of this legislation is to extend or revise various already established programs. Remember that every 5 years the Child Nutrition Programs are supposed to be Reauthorized. Currently, it has been over 10 years since the programs have been reauthorized but also remember that all things remain the same, including reimbursement, until there is a reauthorization with potential changes.

2. This is the year that the words "non-food assistance" became "**equipment assistance**" as relates to grants that can be used to purchase needed equipment for schools.

3. Not later than May 15 of each school year, the Secretary shall make an estimate of the value of **agricultural commodities** and other foods that will be delivered during that school year to States for the school lunch program.

4. "This Public Law gave the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to approve the types of commodity foods sold during the time of food service to students".

5. Special Milk "Children who qualify for free lunches under guidelines set forth by the Secretary shall also be eligible for free milk, when milk is made available at times other than the periods of meal service, in outlets that operate a food service program under sections 4 and 17 of the National School Lunch Act and section 4 of this Act."

6. Reduction of Paperwork - Sec. 21- In carrying out functions under this Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, the Secretary shall reduce, to the maximum extent possible, the paperwork required of State and Local Educational Agencies, Schools, and other agencies participating in Child Nutrition Programs under such Acts.

7. State Administrative Expense Funding - The Secretary shall pay each State for its administrative costs incurred pursuant to the administration of this Act and the National School Lunch Act for the fiscal year an amount not less than 1 percent and not greater than 1/2 percent of the funds used by each State under sections 4, 11, and 17 of the National School Lunch Act. **This will change going into future legislation.**

8. Nutrition Education and Training - It is the purpose of this section to encourage effective

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dissemination of scientifically valid information to children participating or eligible to participate in the



school lunch and related child nutrition programs by **establishing a system of grants to State Educational Agencies for the development of comprehensive nutrition information and education programs. Such nutrition education programs shall fully use, as a learning laboratory the School Lunch and Child Nutrition Programs.**

1978 PL95-627 was passed- this Act may be cited as the "Child Nutrition Amendments of 1978". The content passed is as follows:

1. Made the **Child Care Food Program permanent** with a full set of regulations, definitions, funding explanations, timelines and extended programs such as an Advisory Committee.

2. **The Women's, Infants and Children's Program (WIC)** also was authorized by this section to provide supplemental foods and nutrition education through any eligible local agency that applies for participation in the program. The program shall serve as an adjunct to good health care, during critical times of growth and development, to prevent the occurrence of health problems and improve the health status of these persons.

3. **Domestic Seafood Commodities** and their products were added to the Commodity Program as an amendment to the National School Lunch Act.

This is as far into the history of the Program as I want to delve for this edition. I am looking forward to the Winter edition of the Serving Spoon which will coincide with the review of our **fall virtual event**. The 1980's were very busy legislatively for me personally. I was privileged to serve on the School Nutrition Association's Public Policy and Legislative Committee for 5 years from 1984 to 1989. I served as the Chairman of that national committee for 3 years from 1986 to 1989. I have a lot of information to share from a personal perspective and legislative perspective. It was a very exciting time for our programs and we accomplished a tremendous amount of progress legislatively for our programs. I am looking forward to the next edition of the Serving Spoon. I will miss seeing you all at convention but I'll see and interact with you virtually.

You all are doing such a wonderful job of feeding students in all different and creative ways which is a continuing amazement to everyone. Your flexibility and dedication to the children you serve and care so much for in this very troubling time of a pandemic plaguing our whole county is truly inspiring. You are definitely providing more positive media coverage for the Child Nutrition Programs than they have ever had in the past and you deserve every kudo and kind recognition from those who see and admire your commitment. **Our deepest and most sincere appreciation for all you do for the children of the great state of Maryland.**

Stay safe and healthy!
Mary Klatko, MdSNA Webmaster