

## How the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act Will Affect Foodservice

Recently, the House of Representatives passed the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (S .3307) which will grant students access to more nutritious meals and establish nutrition standards for all foods sold in schools. The bill will now make its way to the White House, waiting for President Barack Obama's signature.

The Act plans to combat childhood obesity and encourages students to make healthy food choices in and out of school. In addition, the Act will reduce childhood hunger.

The [Committee on Education & Labor](#) further explains that the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act will "dramatically improve children's access to nutritious meals, enhance the quality of meals children eat both in and out of school and in child care settings, implement new school food safety guidelines and, for the first time, establish nutrition standards for all foods sold in schools."

The [Committee on Education & Labor](#) explains the following about the Act:

### Improves Access

- **Increases the number of children enrolled in the school meals programs** by using Medicaid data to directly certify eligible children. *This provision will connect approximately new 115,000 students to the school meals program.*
- **Enhances universal meal access** for eligible children in high poverty communities.
- **Provides more meals for at-risk children nationwide** by allowing Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) providers to be reimbursed for meals provided to low-income children after school. This provision will provide an additional 21 million meals annually.
- **Provides funding for innovative state and local projects** to address childhood hunger and promote food security for low-income children.

### Increases Focus on Nutrition Quality and Children's Health

- **Improves the nutritional quality of school meals** by increasing the federal reimbursement rate for school lunches for districts who comply with federal nutrition standards. *This additional 6 cents per meal will be the first real reimbursement rate increase in over 30 years.*
- **Removes junk food from schools** by applying nutrition standards for all foods sold in schools.
- **Promotes nutrition and wellness in child care settings.**
- **Connects more children to healthy produce** from local farms.
- **Strengthens local school wellness policies** by updating existing requirements, increasing transparency, providing opportunities for community involvement, and compliance measurements.

## **Improves Program Management & Program Integrity**

- **Supports schools' food service budgets** by ensuring charges to school foodservice accounts are only for allowable expenses.
- **Supports a skilled workforce by establishing professional standards and training opportunities for school foodservice providers.**
- **Improves food safety requirements for school meals** by improving recall procedures and extending existing HACCP requirements to all places where school meals are prepared or served.

The new Act touches on numerous areas that are concerns for foodservice professionals and will create changes in the future.

How will the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act affect foodservice professionals?

School foodservice will be required to serve more fruits and vegetables and follow standards that are put into effect. Not only will requirements be put into effect, but foodservice professionals will learn new ways to provide nutritious meals and meet these requirements. Preparing natural entrees from scratch requires very different culinary skills than serving processed entrees. Professionals will be able to become more knowledgeable about providing more nutritious food to encourage students to have a healthier lifestyle.

Lakeside Foodservice has been working with school foodservice operators for over 60 years and offers a carefully designed product line that transports, stores, heats, cools, and serves. Our products make it easy to meet food safety requirements, an aspect that will be further improved with the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act. Lakeside's products feature temperature and power controls visibly located for easy access and adjustments, to help keep food temperatures within safe zones. Our products are innovative and will continue to move forward with foodservice trends and requirements.

What do you think about the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act? What changes will be made in your kitchen?