

Virginia Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics




**School Nutrition Programs:
Frontline for Child Nutrition**

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OBJECTIVES


1. Understand the school meal programs available to children in Virginia
2. Identify school meal trends resulting from COVID-19
3. Define innovative practices to enhance nutritional quality in school meal programs




HISTORY OF NATIONAL SCHOOL MEALS



- > Richard B Russell Act of 1946 - provided federally funding for National School Lunch Program
- > Program began as an issue of national security due to malnutrition



IMPORTANT DATES



- > **1975** National School Breakfast Program authorized
- > **1994** School Meals must follow Dietary Guidelines
- > **2010** Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act



REGISTERED DIETITIANS AND TECHS

RDNs and NDTRs have an important history with school meal programs

- > Emma Smedley
- > Dr. Mary de Garmo Bryan
- > Dr. Neige Todhunter
- > Dr. Josephine Martin







Photo credit: Records of the Office of Secretary of Agriculture, Child Nutrition Archives, ICN



FUNDING MODEL



- > Reimbursement for meals served
- > Menus meet federal nutritional requirements
- > Nutrient standards based on Dietary Guidelines
- > **USDA** is the regulatory agency overseeing National School Meal Programs assigns state agencies to administer



FEDERAL FUNDING STREAMS



- NSLP/SBP
- SFSP/SSO
- CACFP At-Risk
- FFVP



STATE FUNDING STREAMS



- Breakfast after the Bell
- State Breakfast Incentive
- State Match



BEGINNING OF COVID-19



- School closures began mid-March 2020
- Children rely on school meals and need options during school closures
- Unanticipated closure waiver allows schools to operate SFSP and SSO



NATIONAL WAIVERS



- Provide program flexibilities:
- Non-congregate feeding
 - Meal times
 - Meal pattern



IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN VIRGINIA

USDA waivers implemented: 72
 Meal program sponsors: 152
 (some serving 7 days a week)
 Sites: 1842 SFSP + 95 SSO

May 2020: 7.76 million meals
 Dec 2020: 10.52 million meals
 Currently: ~339,000 meals/day



CAFETERIA TO CURBSIDE...OVERNIGHT



Planning Considerations

- Distribution Sites
- Bus Routes
- Delivery



MEETING NUTRITION NEEDS



- Access
- Meal pattern
- Meal quality



FOOD SAFETY AND PERSONAL SAFETY



- Social distancing
- Disinfection/Sanitizing
- Multiple days meal distribution
- HACCP SOP for COVID-19



ECONOMIC/FINANCIAL FACTORS



- Staff salaries paid (whether working or not)
- Transportation and meal packaging costs
- Procurement Challenges



SCHOOL MEALS AND COVID-19



- Connectivity with students
- Appreciation of school nutrition professionals



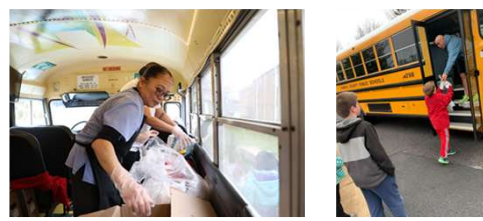
Consolidated Appropriations Act: HR 133



- Signed into law on December 27, 2020
- Emergency funding for SFAs and CACFP operators
- \$42 million for Summer EBT
- \$30 million for school equipment grants
- \$12 million for Farm to School grants
- Further clarity and flexibility for P-EBT
- 15% increase in SNAP maximum benefit
- Establishes task force to support online delivery systems for WIC
- Funding for Older Americans Act Nutrition Programs



Budget Reconciliation Bill – S. Con. Res. 5



USDA EMERGENCY FUNDING OPPORTUNITY



HR 133, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, includes:

- Partial funding for NSLP and CACFP operators for March 2020-June 2020
- Based on previous year's reimbursement and calculated using a factor of 55%



2020 SCHOOL NUTRITION LEGISLATION



- School Meals: Adoption of Policies (HB 697)
- Distribution of Excess Food (HB 698)
- School Meals Policies: Parental Notification and Opt-Out (HB 701)
- School Meals Debt: Donations (HB703)
- Availability of School Meals to Students (HB 1426)
- Mandatory Participation in CEP (HB 5113)



2021 SCHOOL NUTRITION LEGISLATION

- School Board Policies for Unpaid Meal Debt (HB 2013)
- Mandatory Participation in Afterschool Meals Program (HB 2135)



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Long term nutritional risk
we are running a marathon we have to keep keeping on because hungry children can't learn....impacts on mental and physical health long term effects....



QUALIFIED LEADERSHIP



Necessary for the future RDN and NDTR possess qualifications

Practice Paper: Comprehensive Nutrition Programs and Services in Schools
 Volume 118, Issue 5, Pages 920-931 (May 2018)



PRACTICE APPLICATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- How can participant apply/advance practice?
- School Nutrition Services DPG membership
 - [Website](#)
 - The Spoodle Report
 - Webinars
- Any final conclusions?



THANK YOU!



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