

The Honorable Kevin W. Concannon
Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, USDA
1400 Independence Ave., SW, Suite 216EWhitten Building
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October 5, 2012

Dear Kevin,

In Texas, we have the fifth-highest rate of child food insecurity in the country. Meals served through the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program may be the only food these children receive all day. The new standards were developed using recommendations made by the Institute of Medicine, among others, increase the availability of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lower fat milk in school meals; reduce the levels of sodium, saturated fat and trans fat in meals, and meet the nutrition needs of school children within their calorie requirements.

The Texas Hunger Initiative fully supports the new school meal nutrition standards set forth in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. We see this overhaul of the school lunch and breakfast guidelines as a significant move towards improved health in our country and applaud the federal government for taking this important step in allowing schools to create and reinforce healthy eating habits in children. It is imperative that students are not only learning but also applying the importance of healthy eating choices during the school hours. The recent positive changes will help more than 2.4 million Texas students who receive a free or reduced-price school lunch lead healthier, more active lives—in and out of the classroom.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Everett

Jeremy Everett, Director
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October 5, 2012