



October 5, 2012

**“Every Child Deserves Healthier Food”  
Statement in Support of USDA School Meal Nutrition Standards from PHI Vice President for  
Public Policy and Advocacy Matthew Marsom**

Washington, DC – “Public Health Institute supports the science-based nutrition standards for the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. The standards make significant strides to ensure that no child goes hungry, while also ensuring that all children who participate in the school meal programs have access to high-quality foods that support health and well-being, without promoting overconsumption.

The Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act was signed into law (P.L 111-296) in December 2010, and renews American’s commitment to ensuring that all children have the healthy food that helps them reach their full potential. Thanks to this legislation, low-income school children throughout the country now have improved access to healthy breakfasts, lunches and afterschool snacks offered through the federal child nutrition programs.

This legislation doesn’t just feed children. It feeds children healthier food. That’s something every child deserves.

These science-based standards are based on recommendations from the independent National Academies of Sciences Institute of Medicine and reflect the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The USDA developed the standards in an open and transparent public process that reflects more than 130,000 stakeholder comments--from nutrition and public health experts, anti-hunger advocates, the food and beverage industry, the spectrum of professionals engaged in producing, supplying, and preparing school meals, parents, and children themselves.

PHI is opposed to any legislative or regulatory changes that would undermine or weaken these standards, either for the types of food that can be offered, or the calorie requirements. PHI remains committed to helping support implementation of the new school meal nutrition standards, promoting increased access to healthy meals at school, and our work to reinforce the impact of healthy meals with evidence-based nutrition education.”

**About the Public Health Institute**

The Public Health Institute, an independent nonprofit organization, is dedicated to promoting health, well-being and quality of life for people throughout California, across the nation and around the world. PHI's primary methods for achieving these goals include: sharing evidence developed through quality research and evaluation; providing training and technical assistance; and promoting successful prevention strategies to policymakers, communities and individuals. For more information, go to: [www.phi.org](http://www.phi.org).

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