



Encourage USDA Meal Patterns Updates and Legislative Language that Protects Potatoes in School Meal Programs

ACTION REQUESTED

- ✓ Congress should ensure that Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR) includes language allowing all vegetables, including potatoes, to be served at breakfast without limitation.
- ✓ USDA's Food and Nutrition Service should remove restrictions on servings of potatoes within the School Breakfast Program through the Department's planned meal pattern updates in Fall 2022.

There are two **potential opportunities to secure a long-term fix to the current restrictions against potatoes in the School Breakfast Program**. Both Congress' Child Nutrition Reauthorization and USDA's upcoming school meals reform could codify the practice resulting from the NPC supported appropriations language that allows vegetables, including potatoes, to be served at breakfast without limitation.

The first is on Capitol Hill, where discussion is underway around Child Nutrition Reauthorization, which underpins nutrition programs such as the School Breakfast Program and the National School Lunch Program. There is ongoing work to include legislative language allowing all vegetables to be a substitute for fruit at breakfast.

The second opportunity is with USDA, which intends to issue a proposed rule in Fall 2022 to update school nutrition standards and meal patterns for school year 2024-2025. Our team will work throughout the comment period to educate and encourage USDA to remove restrictions on potatoes within the School Breakfast Program.

Local school food service professionals know better than anyone the best way to provide nutritious meals to the children they serve. School food service directors have told us that potatoes can be used to introduce children to other types of vegetables, increase school breakfast participation, and decrease food waste, all while providing students food they like in creative forms.

Therefore, NPC strongly encourages:

- Congress to include Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR) language allowing all vegetables, including potatoes, to be served at breakfast without limitation.
- USDA's Food and Nutrition Service to remove restrictions on servings of potatoes within the School Breakfast Program through the Department's planned meal pattern updates in Fall 2022.