



BLUE SKIES AHEAD:

WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON FOR CHILD NUTRITION?

INTRODUCTION

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WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON FOR CHILD NUTRITION?

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4



FLIGHT CONTROL



HORIZON WATCH



NAVIGATING THE TURBULENCE

Recognize the Problem
Refine the Information
Research Relevance

Reflect and Ask Questions
Reach Out to Stakeholders

Recommend a Contingency Plan

WHAT CHANGES ARE ON THE HORIZON?

FOOD

Policy and Legislation
Ultra Processed Foods
Use of Whole & Local Foods



FUNDING

Food and Labor Costs
Fund Balances
Reimbursement



01

FOOD

Executive Orders

MAKE AMERICA HEALTHY AGAIN (MAHA) COMMISSION

Commission established by Executive Order whose mission is to address the chronic disease epidemic in the US, particularly among children.

MAHA REPORT

Comprehensive assessment of the crisis of our children's health. NSLP's meal pattern is commended for limiting added sugars, sodium, and carbohydrates. Problems noted with NSLP were the lack of limits on ultra processed foods (UPFs) and student confusion in commercial product reformulations.



01

FOOD

Executive Orders

MAHA STRATEGY

The assessment identified four potential drivers behind the rise in childhood chronic disease that present the clearest opportunities for progress.

For NSLP:

1. Removal of food dyes
2. Improving Farm to School grants
3. Allowing for whole milk
4. Increasing access to whole and healthy foods
5. Developing a standard definition for UPFs.



01

FOOD Ultraprocessed Foods

RECOGNIZE, REFINE, RESEARCH

- Health Concerns
 - UPFs have been identified as a major contributor to childhood obesity and chronic disease due to their nutritional composition and biological effects.
- What Makes a Food “Ultra-Processed”?:
 - Foods that have been significantly altered from their original state through industrial processes, often containing added ingredients such as sugars, fats, salts, and artificial additives.

01

FOOD

Ultraprocessed Foods

RECOGNIZE, REFINE, RESEARCH

EXAMPLES

- fatty, sweet, savory or salty packaged snacks
- biscuits (cookies)
- ice creams and frozen desserts
- chocolates, candies and confectionery in general
- cola, soda and other carbonated soft drinks
- 'energy' and sports drinks
- canned, packaged, dehydrated (powdered) and other 'instant' soups, noodles, sauces, desserts, drink mixes and seasonings
- sweetened and flavored yogurts, including fruit yogurts
- dairy drinks, including chocolate milk
- sweetened juices
- margarines and spreads
- pre-prepared (packaged) meat, fish and vegetables
- pre-prepared pizza and pasta dishes
- pre-prepared burgers, hot dogs, sausages
- pre-prepared poultry and fish 'nuggets' and 'sticks'
- other animal products made from remnants
- packaged breads, hamburger and hot dog buns
- baked products made with ingredients such as hydrogenated vegetable fat, sugar, yeast, whey, emulsifiers, and other additives
- breakfast cereals and bars
- infant formulas & drinks, and meal replacement shakes (e.g., 'slim fast')
- pastries, cakes and cake mixes
- distilled alcoholic beverages such as whisky, gin, rum, vodka, etc.

- Ice Cream
- Non-Program Foods
- Starter Mixes
- Yogurt
- Chocolate Milk
- Prepackaged Food Items
- Hamburger and Hotdog Buns
- Breakfast Cereals

Let's Advocate for:
Ingredients of Concern vs. UPFs

[Nova Food Classification System](#),
[Ingredient Guide for Better School](#)
[Food Purchasing](#)

01

FOOD Ultraprocessed Foods

ASK QUESTIONS, GAIN SUPPORT

- Why do we have these items on our menus?
Relatively inexpensive, hyper -palatable, shelf -stable and convenient
- What menu items would be affected in my district or school?
- What “ingredients of concern” do I need to look for?
- What will my stakeholders want to know?
- In finding menu replacements, what logistics do I need to consider?

SNA's input to HHS and USDA

01

FOOD

Ultraprocessed Foods

RECOMMEND A CONTINGENCY PLAN

Share the right message:

- Providing healthy foods for your students continues to be a top priority for your program.
- Continual efforts are made in menu planning through meal pattern contributions and nutritional analysis.
 - Calories
 - Saturated Fat
 - Sodium
 - Added Sugars
- Commitment to operating a fully compliant program.
- Be willing to share the logistical needs related to any changes.

02

FOOD Local and Whole

RECOGNIZE, REFINE, AND RESEARCH

- The MAHA Strategy calls for an increase in access to whole, minimally processed foods
- Perfect match with our current Farm to School program
- Funding Concerns:
 - Local Foods for Schools Program termination in FY20 25 (\$660 m)
 - Farm Bill in House Legislation with bi-partisan support
 - Focus on funding mechanisms, distribution, reducing administrative burden, and local flexibility

02

FOOD Local and Whole

ASK QUESTIONS, GAIN SUPPORT, MAKE A PLAN

- How are nearby schools purchasing their produce? Is there an opportunity for a collaborative?
- Who are my local farmers and how can I connect with them?
- Am I comfortable with forecasting and procurement?
- What's my experience with F2S reimbursement?
- What partnerships would be available with nutrition education and promotion?
- How do I need to get buy-in from my staff?

WHAT CHANGES ARE ON THE HORIZON?

FOOD

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Foods



FUNDING

Food and Labor Costs
Reimbursement
Declining ISPs

03

FUNDING

Reimbursement Rates

The USDA reimbursement rates were originally intended to supplement school meal programs. The goal was to incentivize schools to offer nutritious, high - quality meals.

03

FUNDING

Reimbursement Rates

RECOGNIZE AND REFINE

The Concern:

Current reimbursement rates do not cover program costs, causing a decline in fund balances.

Compounding Factors:

- Significant Labor Cost Increase
- Rapid Food Cost Increase
- Modest Reimbursement Rate Increase*
- Pandemic reimbursement rate that inflated fund balances.

*Healthy
Meals Help
Kids Learn Act
+ \$0.28/\$0.45

03

FUNDING

RESEARCH AND GAIN SUPPORT

Reimbursement
Rates

Things to Consider for your Program:

1. How can I increase participation wisely and sustainably?
2. What is my program's fund balance history?
3. Calculate your financial performance indicators:
 - a. Expenditures as a percent of Revenue (95%)
 - b. Food and Labor Expenditures (35%, 50%)

03

FUNDING

RESEARCH AND GAIN SUPPORT

Reimbursement
Rates

Things to Consider for your Program:

4. Analyze your plate costs and seek cost effective improvements
5. Look closely at Non -Program Food Costs/Revenue
6. Compare Meals per Labor Hour calculations per site
7. Review inventory procedures and controls in place

03

FUNDING

Reimbursement Rates

As the director, **YOU** are the financial Analyst and strategist, the policy advocate, and the **VOICE** for every Person who relies on your program.

04

FUNDING

Declining ISPs

RECOGNIZE AND REFINE

The Concern:

Current Identified Student Percentage (ISP) rates are declining.

Influencing Factors

- Medicaid Unwinding - expiration of pandemic federal protections (300,000 students)
- HR1 - BBB SNAP and Medicaid Cuts
 - Work Requirements
 - Eligibility Restrictions and Redeterminations
 - Benefit Reductions and Coverage Loss

04

FUNDING

Declining ISPs

RESEARCH, GAIN SUPPORT, RECOMMEND A CONTINGENCY PLAN
BRING THIS TO THE TABLE:

1. CEP base year timeline and grace year information.
2. History of your district's ISP.
3. Run sample ISP reimbursements given current trends using the USDA CEP estimator tool.
4. Practical stories from the field.

Provide Contingency Information:

- Universal Free Breakfast
- Provision 2
- Fund Balance/Pass -Thru Flexibilities
- Free and Reduced Applications
- Strategic Communication Plan

WHAT'S NOT CHANGING?

We still serve GREATfood to INCREDIBLEcustomers with our AMAZING staff.

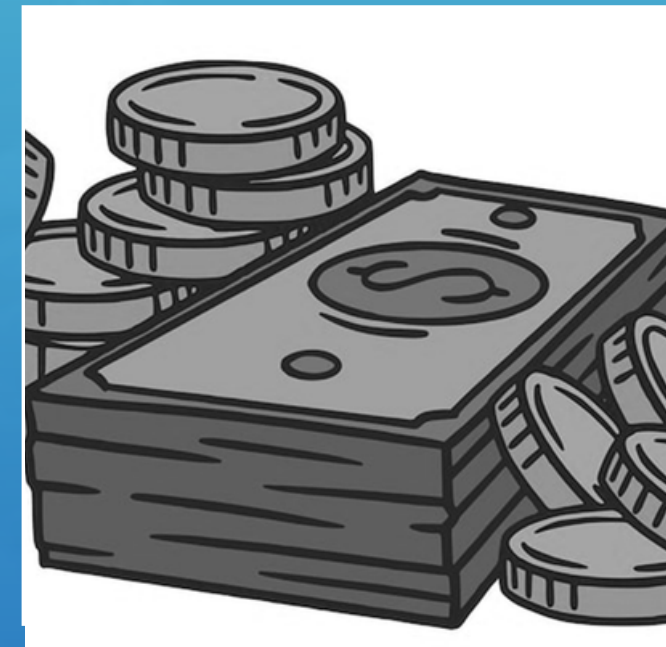


Make the Commitment to

KEEP AN EYE ON THE HORIZON



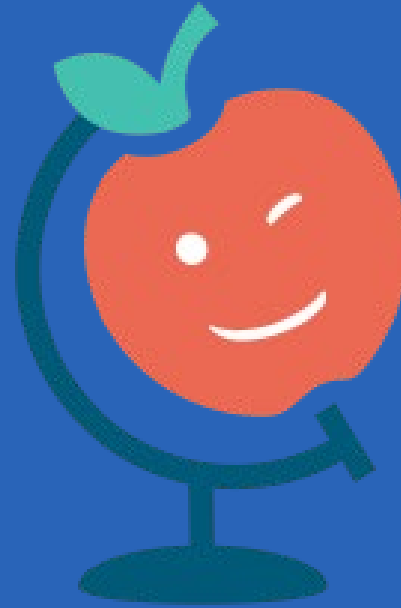
FOOD



FUNDS



Thank You!



BREAK *for a* **PLATE**

ALABAMA SCHOOLS

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