



## **Advocacy Toolkit: USDA Child Nutrition Program Rule Proposal** *Take Action to Shape the Future of School Meals*

The USDA has recently proposed rule changes to its child nutrition program standards, which will affect more than 30 million children who rely on school, after-school, and early childcare meal programs. The proposed rules contain important updates that can result in increased local food in schools, equitable and culturally-relevant meals, better nutritional standards, and expanded career opportunities for school nutrition professionals. Before implementing these proposed changes, the USDA is asking individuals and organizations to share feedback on how these changes would affect people and what to keep in mind when implementing.

Public comments are due **May 10, 2023**—this is YOUR chance to make your voice heard around what you want for the future of school meals.

### **How Can You Take Action?**

1. Learn more (and share!) what these rules are and why they're important [here](#)
2. Review NFSN's [organizational comment letter](#) and a [detailed model comment](#) that you copy and modify for your own comments.
3. Submit your public comment [with our action alert link here](#).
4. Spread the word! Check out the social media posts below that you can copy and paste.

**Submit a public comment [with our action alert link here](#).**

→ **Want to spread the word and encourage others to join you in taking action? Copy and paste from the following social media posts:**

- I applaud USDA for its proposal to make local purchasing easier for schools. #localfood and #farmtoschool not only provides more nourishing meals for kids, it also supports the local economy. TAKE ACTION to join me in showing your support!  
<https://www.votervoice.net/FarmtoSchool/Campaigns/102184/Respond>
- Increasing access to #localfood can create healthier school meals, make students feel connected to their community, and boost local economy! I support the USDA's proposal to simplify and expand local purchasing for schools. Join me in showing your support:  
<https://www.votervoice.net/FarmtoSchool/Campaigns/102184/Respond>
- Our kids deserve the best, and that includes the food they eat at school. Join me in telling the USDA that we support better access to #localfood in school meals.  
<https://www.votervoice.net/FarmtoSchool/Campaigns/102184/Respond>
- #SchoolMeals should reflect the cultural heritage and values of the students they serve. The USDA's proposal to allow traditional foods to be served as a school meal supports



NATIONAL  
FARM to SCHOOL  
NETWORK

Native communities—join me in supporting racial equity in school meals.

<https://www.votervoice.net/FarmtoSchool/Campaigns/102184/Respond>

- In order to truly improve #schoolmeals across the country, we need to support better career access in school nutrition. I support USDA's proposal to expand career advancement for child nutrition professionals—join me in taking action:  
<https://www.votervoice.net/FarmtoSchool/Campaigns/102184/Respond>

→ [Download and share these social media graphics](#)



If you're interested in learning more about the proposed rules, check out the following resources:

- [The USDA's comparison chart summarizing proposed rule changes](#)
- [Summary of proposed changes specifically for school nutrition standards](#)

**[Submit a public comment with our action alert link here.](#)**