



A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO
GIVE KIDS the SCHOOL FOOD THEY DESERVE

A SLOW FOOD USA CAMPAIGN

Talking points

Here's our key message: **It's time to give America's kids a healthy future.**

- Child obesity is spiraling out of control, and our kids, our economy, our health care system and our quality of life are at risk.
- Our best opportunity for fighting obesity is to ensure that every child has access to fresh, wholesome food every school day.
- Right now, Congress gives schools \$2.68 per lunch, about \$1.00 of which goes towards buying ingredients. As a result, schools have to rely on the cheap processed foods that are fueling the obesity and diabetes epidemics.
- With an additional \$1.00 per lunch, schools would be able to serve real food, buy whole ingredients and cook meals from scratch.
- President Obama's budget adds \$1 billion per year to child nutrition programs. That's an important step forward, but it's not enough to give America's kids a healthy future. Not when Congress spends over \$13 billion per year subsidizing processed foods, and when obesity costs our nation \$147 billion per year. Congress should add *at least* \$1 billion to child nutrition programs, and recognize that until we give schools \$1.00 more per lunch, we're putting the health of America's children at risk.
- Congress should also pass mandatory funding for Farm-to-School programs, which link schools to local farms, create jobs in local economies and give schools the resources to update their kitchens and plant school gardens.
- Finally, Congress should strengthen the nutrition standards for all the food sold at school, including the food sold in school vending machines and as "a la carte" items in the cafeteria.

Learn more about the campaign at www.slowfoodusa.org/timeforlunch.