

The State of the Plate

A School Meal Primer for California

Jessica Reich
March 2005



116 New Montgomery Street, Suite 633
San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone (415) 777-4422
Fax (415) 777-4466
Email cfpa@cfpa.net

www.cfpa.net

California Food Policy Advocates

California Food Policy Advocates is a public policy and advocacy organization whose mission is to improve the health and well being of low-income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious and affordable food.

CFPA is California's only statewide advocacy organization with a focus on food and nutrition for low-income people. The organization's work emphasizes the critical importance of preserving, improving, and expanding participation in the federal food programs, the state's strongest tool in overcoming malnutrition and hunger. CFPA works with community-based organizations to identify critical food access problems and to mobilize effective solutions to them.

CFPA uses research and analysis, advocacy, and community education and mobilization to ensure that every Californian has access to the nutrition required to grow, to learn, and to lead a productive life.

Acknowledgments

This report is intended to provide policymakers, parents, students, communities and schools with information on the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program in California; it does not replace any information provided by the Nutrition Services Division of the California Department of Education or the United States Department of Education. The author thanks the following reviewers who provided helpful comments; any errors remain the responsibility of the author. (Please note that organizations are listed for identification purposes only.)

- Barry Sackin, American School Food Service Association (formerly)
- Denise Andrews, Amy Bell, Gloria Caberra, Sheryl Curtis, Rae Dalimonte, Michael Danzik, Violet Henry, Ronna Jakobitz, Chris Kavooras, Rochelle Magness, Helen Magnuson, Diane Put, Cindy Schneider, Victoria Viviano, as well as Phyllis Bramson-Paul, Director, Deborah Meeker, Assistant Director and Carolyn Brown, Special Assistant to the Director, California Department of Education, Nutrition Services Division
- Peggy Agron, California Project LEAN
- Lynnelle Grumbles, California School Food Service Association
- Janet Allen, Joanne Lewin, Laura Walter, Mike Jacob, Reese Payton and Melisa DiTano, USDA, Western Region

In addition, numerous colleagues from CFPA provided valuable comments and research assistance: Lucy Hicks, Ken Hecht, Matt Sharp, Danika Choe, Kami Kruckenberg and George Manalo-LeClair.

Given the complexity of school meals, and the continual changes in state and federal law and regulation, please note that this document is as accurate as possible as of March 2005. Please contact Jessica Reich with any updates, corrections or suggestions at jreich@cfpa.net.

California Food Policy Advocates would like to thank our funders, whose support allows us to produce this report and other materials in the fight to address the problems of hunger and obesity:

- The California Endowment
- The California Wellness Foundation
- Cooley Godward LLP
- The Entertainment Industry Foundation
- MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
- Rosenberg Foundation
- Share Our Strength
- Wallis Foundation