
January 2019

Child Nutrition Reauthorization

ACTION

The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) urges Congress to pass the Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR). Congress failed to reauthorize this important nutritional program that ensures children have access to breakfast and lunch in the last Congress.

HISTORY

- Every day, 32 million children receive school lunches and 12 million receive school breakfasts through the US Department of Agriculture's School Lunch and School Breakfast Program.
- One in five children live in a household that experiences food insecurity and the child nutrition program ensures that children have access to food throughout the school day to improve their health and ability to learn.
- Schools meals often provide half of a student's daily caloric intake. For a child that experiences food insecurity, school meals are a lifeline.
- Currently, 98 percent of schools are meeting the improved nutrition standards that include more fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and less sodium.
- The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) allows schools that primarily serve low-income children to offer free breakfast and lunch to all students without the burden of collecting household applications. Instead CEP designation is based on a percentage of children that receive means tested programs such as Supplemental Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

BACKGROUND

- NASN urges Congress not to weaken the current Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR) that has helped ensure millions of children have access to regular meals.
- NASN opposes measures to blockgrant the child nutrition programs which would disrupt the continuity and integrity of ensuring that children have access to healthy foods.
- Maintain the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) that allows high poverty schools to maximize their reach and streamline the process of feeding children in need.