

ELIZABETH CAMPBELL

MA, RDN

ABOUT LIZ
CAMPBELL

CHILD NUTR
REAUTH

NUTR & MEAL
COST STUDY

TAKE ACTION +
SHOW SUPPORT



MAY 2019 MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

*Elizabeth Campbell, MA, RDN
Senior Director of Legislative and Government Affairs
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*

ABOUT

Elizabeth Campbell, MA, RDN, is the Senior Director of Legislative and Government Affairs at the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. When Liz began her undergraduate studies, she was taking a much different path. She majored in Human Resource Management and Industrial Labor Relations. She was the proud daughter of the president of the United Steelworkers Union. As a union baby, she had an early introduction to social justice and fair wage. Her focus at the time was on making sure that employees were being treated fairly, so she intended on becoming a labor lawyer. During this time, she went to work in the same company her father worked for, but began to question if this field really was her true calling.

Liz had an undeniable draw to nutrition and began to give second thought to her career plans. She embraced her passion and made the decision to go back to school at Syracuse University to obtain her master's degree in nutrition. During her second semester, the Food Bank visited Liz's class and gave a presentation on food access. This was the moment that Liz realized exactly what she was meant to do.

Liz applied for an assistantship that the Food Bank offered to one graduate student each year. She was awarded the assistantship and was appointed to lead the CookShop Program in Syracuse City Schools, where she started teaching nutrition education. When she completed her degree, the Food Bank then hired her as the director of member services. In this position she coordinated all of the CACFP AT-Risk Supper Programs, which was back when CACFP was only a pilot program in New York. She also expanded their summer food service program to reach areas that were not covered by the schools. Her next chapter of her career began after she took the time to adventurously backpack through Central America for 6 months. Upon returning from Central America, Liz worked at UC Berkeley Nutrition Policy Institute in California. Her research studies focused on healthy eating in the communities, including legislation around competitive foods in schools. When Liz moved back to the East Coast, she worked with the School Nutrition Foundation on the Partners for Breakfast in the Classroom project. A year and a half later she became a consultant, helping school districts all over the country implement breakfast after the bell and breakfast in the classroom. She continued as a consultant for 10 years until she began her current position with the Academy.

CHILD NUTRITION REAUTHORIZATION

With Liz's strong background in policy and her passion for legislation, she is the perfect person to lead the Academy's Child Nutrition Reauthorization working group. The working group is a team of professionals who have been invited to examine and develop the CNR recommendations. They will interpret the proposals and decisions made during the reauthorization and communicate the information to members of the Academy and SNS DPG. Together they are writing recommendations and analyzing the changes that could be beneficial for school nutrition programs or detrimental to school nutrition programs. Together, they are working to push the reauthorization in the direction that is beneficial for school food authorities and most importantly, our kids who we serve. This team of successful, experienced, and esteemed professionals is fighting for our programs. The group consists of 12 people in the core working group and approximately 30 people in the advisory group.

2010 was the last reauthorization. In 2016, bills in both the house and senate never made it to conference. It's been 9 years since the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFK) and we are now starting again to look at reauthorization. There was a working group in 2015 who prepared for the 2016 reauthorization, so this year's working group is fortunate to have their work to use as a base, rather than starting from scratch. The working group will analyze the recommendations written by the previous group and make updates and changes, current to 2019. In June, the team plans to have their position papers prepared for the Academy's Nutrition and Dietetics Advocacy Summit (previously PPW), July 11-12 in Washington, DC. Liz's plan is to identify registrants at the event who have members of congress in the senate and invite them to visit the hill to promote the group's priorities. This is both an exciting and scary time in school nutrition.

SCHOOL NUTRITION AND MEAL COST STUDY

The recently released School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study (SNMCS) couldn't have come at a better time. The study can be used to leverage the argument that the nutritional quality of schools meals has in fact improved since the HHFK Act of 2010. Conducted by Mathematica for FNS, the study made assessments based on the 2014-2015 school year, which gave time for schools to adopt the requirements. The study aimed to analyze concerns such as cost, acceptability, and waste.

The study is unique because it is the only national study to simultaneously examine both nutritional quality and production costs associated with those meals. It incorporates quantitative data on plate waste and students' acceptance of school meals. The results are encouraging and confirm that the nutritional status of school meals has significantly improved. We are moving in the right direction and we now have the research to prove it.

The SNMCS, released this April, was published at the perfect time, as the Child Nutrition Reauthorization is back on the table. There is a comprehensive summary of the entire study, for those who would like a shorter, easy-to-read document. This information is extremely valuable for school nutrition administrators and stakeholders. It can be used to educate students and the public. It is concrete research that supports the ongoing defense that "school food just isn't what it used to be."

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-nutrition-and-meal-cost-study>

TAKE ACTION + SHOW SUPPORT

The CNR working group is dedicating hours of their personal time to make sure that our voices are heard. So how can we help them and support them?

Once the working group has their priorities written, they will start going to the hill with marker bills. A marker bill is a piece of legislation presented to Congress that is part of a larger bill. They are currently working on a marker bill called the School Food Service Modernization Act. The group will create and send out action alerts for these marker bills. It is then our turn, as SNS DPG members, to call our members of congress to ask them to support the legislation. When the full bill is marked up, they will again reach out to the DPG and ask us to give input on the bill and contact our members of congress. Liz emphasized the importance of relationships. We have representation as Academy members in each state and congress members see value in connecting with voting members of their state. Building relationships with your local offices builds our support network and helps drive our agenda.

Another way to get involved is to contribute to ANDPAC. Whether you donate, help fundraise, or attend an ANDPAC event at FNCE, every bit helps them work towards our goals. Funding helps get ANDPAC representatives in front of congress to get their support. We also have the responsibility of staying updated on policy and legislation impacting our programs. One easy and obvious way to stay informed is by reading the Spoodle Report! Jeanne Reilley, NDTR, is our SNS DPG Policy and Advocacy Leader. Each month she shares policy and advocacy news.

Liz and her team in the CNR working group must have our support in order for them to positively impact the policy and legislation that controls our programs. Now is our time to truly make a difference in the future of school nutrition. We must fight to protect our programs and their improved nutritional quality so that we can nourish as many children as possible through school meals.

HELPFUL LINKS



School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study

Nutrition and Dietetics Advocacy Summit July 11-12

ANDPAC