

USDA Releases Proposed Rule on “Competitive Foods” in School



On February 1, 2013, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released a rule outlining proposed minimum nutrition standards for competitive foods. The promulgation of a proposed rule initiates a public comment period on school foods sold through vending machines, a la carte lines, and school stores.

National PTA and its network of nearly 5 million parents and educators strongly supported the enactment of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, which passed with bipartisan support in 2010. Its continued implementation, including the establishment of nutritional guidelines for competitive foods, is a top priority for National PTA.

With the goal of supporting the USDA in delivering the best guidance and improving access to healthy food for children and youth, National PTA plans to provide constructive feedback in response to the proposal’s details and encourages its members to do the same. Model comments will be provided by National PTA within the next week. Additional information on PTA’s policy on competitive foods can be found in National PTA’s [2013 Federal Public Policy Agenda](#).