

White House Task Force Report Recommendations Mirror Many Provisions of S.3307



On March 24, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry unanimously approved legislation to reauthorize the Federal child nutrition programs, the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010. On May 11, The White House Task Force on Childhood Obesity issued a report to the President, titled *Solving the Problem of Childhood Obesity Within a Generation*. The provisions of S.3307 that correspond to the Task Force's recommendations under each of the five priority areas of the report are outlined below. For more information, please visit <http://agriculture.senate.gov>.

Task Force Report Recommendation	Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act Provision	Description
I. Early Childhood		
Recommendation 1.3: Hospitals and health care providers should use maternity care practices that empower new mothers to breastfeed, such as the Baby-Friendly hospital standards.	Sec. 423. Special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children.	The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) provides nutritious foods and nutrition education to low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, as well as infants and children up to age 5. Local WIC clinics are health care providers. The Task Force report emphasizes the benefits of breastfeeding, calls for expansion of successful programs like the WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counseling program, and calls upon health care providers, among others, to encourage breastfeeding. Sec. 423 reauthorizes the WIC program, which includes a large breastfeeding promotion component. Sec. 231 sets aside program funds for special nutrition education projects, including breastfeeding peer counselors, and for state performance bonuses for improving breastfeeding rates.
Recommendation 1.4: Health care providers and insurance companies should provide information to pregnant women and new mothers on breastfeeding, including the availability of educational classes, and connect pregnant women and new mothers to breastfeeding support programs to help them make an informed infant feeding decision.	Sec. 231. Support for breastfeeding in the WIC Program.	
Recommendation 1.5: Local health departments and community-based organizations, working with health care providers, insurance companies, and others should develop peer support programs that empower pregnant women and mothers to get the help and support they need from other mothers who have breastfed.		
Recommendation 1.9: The AAP guidelines on screen time should be made more available in early childhood settings.	Sec. 221. Nutrition and wellness goals for meals served through the child and adult care food program.	The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) reimburses care providers for serving nutritious meals and snacks to roughly 3 million children, infants, toddlers, seniors, and physically or mentally disabled adults in participating child care centers, day care homes, and adult day care centers. Sec. 221 requires the USDA to provide guidance to child care providers participating in CACFP regarding nutrition, physical activity, and screen time and provides \$10 million for technical assistance. Sec. 222 requires CACFP to coordinate with HHS and state licensing agencies to promote consistent nutrition and wellness standards. Sec. 121 improves program access; when this provision simplifying area eligibility determinations is fully phased in, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that roughly an additional 2,500 day care homes will receive the higher tier 1 reimbursement rate.
Recommendation 1.10: The Federal government, incorporating input from health care providers and other stakeholders, should provide clear, actionable guidance to states, providers, and families on how to increase physical activity, improve nutrition, and reduce screen time in early child care settings.	Sec. 222. Interagency coordination to promote health and wellness in child care licensing. Sec. 223. Study on nutrition and wellness quality of child care settings.	
Recommendation 1.12: The Federal government should look for opportunities in all early childhood programs it funds (such as the Child and Adult Care Food Program at USDA, the Child Care and Development Block Grant, Head Start, military child care, and Federal employee child care) to base policies and practices on current scientific evidence related to child nutrition and physical activity, and seek to improve access to these programs.	Sec. 121. Simplifying area eligibility determinations in the child and adult care food program.	

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II. Empowering Parents and Caregivers		
<p>Recommendation 2.1: The Federal government, working with local communities, should disseminate information about the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans through simple, easily actionable messages for consumers and a next generation Food Pyramid.</p>	<p>Sec. 221. Nutrition and wellness goals for meals served through the child and adult care food program.</p> <p>Sec. 241. Nutrition education and obesity prevention grant program.</p>	<p>Sec. 221 requires the USDA to provide guidance to child care providers participating in CACFP regarding nutrition, physical activity, and screen time and provides \$10 million for technical assistance. The Task Force recommends modernizing the SNAP Nutrition Education program (a component of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program) , which Sec. 241 accomplishes by allowing more flexible use of funds across Federal nutrition programs for evidence-based nutrition education strategies.</p>
III. Healthier Food in Schools		
<p>Recommendation 3.1: Update Federal nutritional standards for school meals and improve the nutritional quality of USDA commodities provided to schools.</p>	<p>Sec. 201. Performance-based reimbursement rate increases for new meal patterns.</p> <p>Sec. 242. Procurement and processing of food service products and commodities.</p>	<p>Sec. 201 requires the USDA to update the nutrition requirements for school meals. Sec. 242 requires the USDA to provide model product specifications and best practices to help schools use commodities in the healthiest way possible.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3.2: Increase resources for school meals.</p>	<p>Sec. 201. Performance-based reimbursement rate increases for new meal patterns.</p> <p>Sec. 205. Equity in school lunch pricing.</p> <p>Sec. 206. Revenue from nonprogram foods sold in schools.</p> <p>Sec. 307. Indirect costs.</p>	<p>Sec. 201 provides a reimbursement rate increase for the National School Lunch Program, and Sections 205, 206, and 307 fulfill the Task Force’s recommendation that Federal funding for the school meal programs be used only for its intended purpose.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3.3: USDA should continue its outreach and technical assistance to help provide training for school food service professionals.</p>	<p>Sec. 306. Professional standards for school food service.</p> <p>Sec. 406. Training, technical assistance, and food service management institute.</p>	<p>Sec. 406 reauthorizes training and technical assistance and provides additional resources for these efforts. Sec. 306 establishes educational and training requirements for school meal program managers at the state and district levels and requires the USDA to provide annual training for school food service personnel.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3.5: USDA should work with all stakeholders to develop innovative ways to encourage students to make healthier choices.</p>	<p>Sec. 244. Research on strategies to promote the selection and consumption of healthy foods.</p>	<p>Sec. 244 authorizes the USDA to conduct research and technical assistance to identify and promote strategies to encourage healthy eating choices, particularly among children.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3.6: USDA should work to connect school meals programs to local growers, and use farm-to-school programs, where possible, to incorporate more fresh, appealing food in school meals.</p>	<p>Sec. 243. Access to Local Foods: Farm to School Program.</p>	<p>Sec. 243 provides \$40 million in mandatory funding for grants to support farm-to-school programs and school gardens.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3.8: Increase the alignment of foods sold at school, including in the a la carte lines and vending machines, with the Dietary Guidelines.</p>	<p>Sec. 208. Nutrition standards for all foods sold in school.</p>	<p>Sec. 208 requires the USDA to establish nutrition standards consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for all foods sold in schools.</p>

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<p>Recommendation 3.9: Food companies should be encouraged to develop new products and reformulate existing products so they meet nutritional standards based on the Dietary Guidelines and appeal to children.</p>	<p>Sec. 208. Nutrition standards for all foods sold in school.</p> <p>Sec. 242. Procurement and processing of food service products and commodities.</p>	<p>Sec. 208 requires the USDA to establish nutrition standards consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for all foods sold in schools, which will require some companies to reformulate their products. Sec. 242 requires the USDA to provide model product specifications and best practices, which will encourage companies to process commodities for schools in healthier ways.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3.10: USDA and the U.S. Department of Education should collaborate with states to increase the availability and consistency of nutrition education in schools.</p>	<p>Sec. 241. Nutrition education and obesity prevention grant program.</p>	<p>Sec. 241 reforms the SNAP Nutrition Education program, which often includes nutrition education in schools, to allow more flexible use of funds across Federal nutrition programs for evidence-based nutrition education strategies.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3.11: Where possible, use school gardens to educate students about healthy eating.</p>	<p>Sec. 243. Access to Local Foods: Farm to School Program.</p>	<p>Sec. 243 provides \$40 million in mandatory funding for grants to support farm-to-school programs and school gardens.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3.12: Technical assistance should be provided to schools about how a cafeteria and lunch room environment can support and encourage a healthful meal.</p>	<p>Sec. 203. Water.</p> <p>Sec. 244. Research on strategies to promote the selection and consumption of healthy foods.</p>	<p>To support a healthier cafeteria environment, Sec. 203 requires schools to provide drinking water during meals in the place where meals are served. Sec. 244 authorizes the USDA to conduct research and technical assistance to identify and promote strategies to encourage healthy eating choices, particularly among children.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3.13: Schools should be encouraged to ensure that choosing a healthy school meal does not have a social cost for a child.</p>	<p>Sec. 143. Review of local policies on meal charges and provision of alternate meals.</p>	<p>The Task Force recommends that schools examine their operational practices to reduce stigma associated with participation in the school meal programs. Overt identification of students receiving free or reduced-price meals violates existing program rules, but many schools struggle to provide food to students who are unable to pay for school meals without singling those students out. Sec. 143 requires the USDA to review local practices pertaining to students who are unable to pay for school meals and determine the feasibility of establishing national standards, with consideration given to preventing overt identification of affected students.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3.15: School districts should be encouraged to create, post, and implement a strong local school wellness policy.</p>	<p>Sec. 204. Local school wellness policy implementation.</p> <p>Sec. 209. Information for the public on the school nutrition environment.</p>	<p>Sec. 204 strengthens existing local school wellness policy requirements. Sec. 209 requires schools to publicly report information on the school nutrition environment.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3.16: Promote good nutrition through afterschool programs.</p>	<p>Sec. 122. Expansion of afterschool meals for at-risk children.</p>	<p>The Task Force recommends building on existing USDA afterschool snack programs. Sec. 122 supports that recommendation by allowing programs in all states to offer a full afterschool meal.</p>

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IV. Access to Healthy, Affordable Food		
<p>Recommendation 4.4: Encourage communities to promote efforts to provide fruits and vegetables in a variety of settings and encourage the establishment and use of direct-to-consumer marketing outlets such as farmers' markets and community supported agriculture subscriptions.</p>	<p>Sec. 424. Farmers market nutrition program.</p>	<p>The Task Force recommends promoting the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, which provides eligible WIC participants with an additional benefit that can be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers' markets. Sec. 424 reauthorizes the program.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4.11: Increase participation rates in USDA nutrition assistance programs through creative outreach and improved customer service, state adoption of improved policy options and technology systems, and effective practices to ensure ready access to nutrition assistance program benefits, especially for children.</p>	<p>Sec. 101. Improving direct certification. Sec. 102. Categorical eligibility of foster children. Sec. 103. Direct certification for children receiving Medicaid benefits. Sec. 104. Eliminating individual applications through community eligibility. Sec. 112. Outreach to eligible families. Sec. 122. Expansion of afterschool meals for at-risk children. Sec. 352. WIC program management.</p>	<p>Sections 101-103 automatically enroll certain eligible children in the school meal programs. Sec. 104 increases participation in the school meal programs by allowing high-poverty schools to offer universal free meal service without collecting applications from students. Sec. 112 requires outreach to publicize the availability of summer meals and school breakfasts to increase participation. Sec. 122 expands access to afterschool meals through the CACFP at-risk program to children in all states. Sec. 352 requires the use of electronic benefit transfer (EBT) technology for WIC.</p>
V. Increasing Physical Activity		
<p>Recommendation 5.1: Developers of local school wellness policies should be encouraged to include strong physical activity components, on par with nutrition components.</p>	<p>Sec. 204. Local school wellness policy implementation.</p>	<p>Sec. 204 strengthens existing local school wellness policy requirements by requiring them to include goals for nutrition education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness. This provision provides parents and local communities an opportunity to encourage local educational agencies to adopt policies to increase the quality of physical education and the availability of opportunities for students at increased risk for physical inactivity. Sec. 122 allows CACFP afterschool programs in all states to offer a full meal. Afterschool programs often include structured or unstructured physical activities, and the opportunity to offer a meal instead of a snack will encourage more local partners to offer these programs and more students to participate.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5.3: State and local educational agencies should be encouraged to increase the quality and frequency of sequential, age- and developmentally-appropriate physical education for all students, taught by certified PE teachers.</p>	<p>Sec. 122. Expansion of afterschool meals for at-risk children.</p>	<p>Sec. 122 allows CACFP afterschool programs in all states to offer a full meal. Afterschool programs often include structured or unstructured physical activities, and the opportunity to offer a meal instead of a snack will encourage more local partners to offer these programs and more students to participate.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5.5: State and local educational agencies should be encouraged to provide opportunities in and outside of school for students at increased risk for physical inactivity, including children with disabilities, children with asthma and other chronic diseases, and girls.</p>	<p>Sec. 122. Expansion of afterschool meals for at-risk children.</p>	<p>Sec. 122 allows CACFP afterschool programs in all states to offer a full meal. Afterschool programs often include structured or unstructured physical activities, and the opportunity to offer a meal instead of a snack will encourage more local partners to offer these programs and more students to participate.</p>