

# Policy Platform

To give kids the school lunch they deserve



It's time to give young Americans the school lunch they deserve: real food that tastes good and is good for them.

The National School Lunch Program was created in 1946 “to safeguard the health and wellbeing of the Nation’s children.” It is supposed to ensure that no child goes without a healthy meal every day. Without healthy food, kids have a harder time performing well in school, staying fit and growing up to be healthy, productive adults.

But sixty years later, healthy food is not what school lunch is providing. For too long, Congress has underfunded school lunch programs, to the point that today’s schools have only \$1 per child to buy ingredients. School nutrition directors do their best to stretch that dollar, but it’s simply not enough to keep kids healthy. It’s even harder to do when junk food is sold in school vending machines, and when schools lack the resources to start nutrition programs or to buy and cook local food.

Congress is going to address school lunch in early 2010. This is our opportunity to give every young American the building blocks for a lifetime of good health.

When Congress reauthorizes the National School Lunch program, we’re calling on our elected officials to:

1. **Invest in health.** Find the funding to give school lunch programs \$1 more per child per day.
2. **Protect kids from the junk food sold in vending machines, cafeterias and school stores.** Approve the Child Nutrition Promotion and School Lunch Protection Act of 2009.
3. **Link schools to local farms, and teach healthy eating.** Guarantee \$50 million for Farm to School programs.