



Making the right food choices, together.

Position of the School Nutrition Association of Arizona on SB 1061

The School Nutrition Association of Arizona (SNAAZ) fully supports school efforts in providing nutritious meals for students in all grade levels. SNAAZ provides support to child nutrition programs in operating fiscally responsible and regulatory compliant programs.

Background:

Prior to ARS 15-242 Arizona did not mandate the voluntary Federal National School Lunch Program (NSLP). It is unclear how many K-8 schools were not participating in NLSP before the legislation, and how many were then required to participate once it became law. The Arizona mandate is only in effect for grades K-8; charter, private and high schools are not mandated to be on the program.

The release on January 25th, 2012 of the final rule for the Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs has verified there will be an expected increase in cost to the local meal programs. Schools receive Federal reimbursement to offset some of these costs; school districts will need to generate the revenue to cover the remaining costs.

We support the intent of the original bill (ARS 15-242) as it was legislated in 2005, which was to ensure that all a la carte options provided to students in grades K-8 met The Arizona Nutrition Standards.

Regardless of the outcome of this proposed legislation through SB 1061, the association will continue to support efforts by member LEAs (Local Education Agency) to provide nutritionally balanced meals.

Implications and Recommendations:

Further information should be brought forward as to how many public K-8 schools would in fact opt out of the program, and what their plans would be to ensure students receive nutritionally balanced meals.