

Proposed Principles, Criteria and Approaches

Matthew Sharp
California Food Policy Advocates
January 28, 2009

National Academy of Science
Institutes of Medicine
Food and Nutrition Board

Committee on Nutrition Standards and Meal
Requirements in NSLP and SBP



California Food Policy Advocates

- ✓ Mission statement.
- ✓ Low-income nutrition: hunger and obesity.
- ✓ School meals are the cornerstone response.
- ✓ CFPA has led innovation in state and local policy to apply the DGAs to school meals.
- ✓ State policies on fresh fruit and trans fat.
- ✓ LAUSD policy in 2005 updated cafeterias to reflect updated DGAs.



Perspective on Phase I Report

- ✓ CFPA applauds the sound rationale and evidence-base used to develop to each component
- ✓ Complementary revisions are needed to areas outside the panel's jurisdiction. Acknowledge:
 - ✓ Legislative changes and cost constraints
 - ✓ Competitive foods and school environment
 - ✓ Monitoring and enforcement



Suggested Edits to Principles

2 (a) School meals should assist children to develop long-term habits to protect against diet-disease and excess weight gain.

For example, 51% whole grain corn dogs and baked french fries: behavioral lessons.

Nutrient intake improvements not easily sustained at home and in neighborhoods.



Suggested Edits to Principles

3 (b) Improving image and appeal will result from, in part, improved nutrition. This is not a challenge, but an opportunity.

For example: participation in Los Angeles has increased with attention to image and appeal.



Suggested Edits to Criterion

1. ...and *applied* improve children's diets by changing foods *selected* (not just menus).

For example: recent plate waste study in Los Angeles noted 40 selections of Hot Wings for each sandwich or salad on student's trays.



Suggested Edits to Criterion

3. Simplification of planning and monitoring processes results in higher rates of compliance with Nutrition Standards and Meal Requirements.

Commentary: SNDA-III shows NSLP and SBP do not comply with SMI requirements. This may not be solved by simplification alone, but could be strengthened by simplification...



Suggested Edits to Criterion

4. Cost sensitivity should incorporate cost of inaction.

Explanation: Children's dietary patterns become adult dietary patterns. Factor potential increases in health care costs into the cost formula, if obesity trends are not reversed.



Suggested Edits to Proposed Approach

- 4 (B) The market effects and cost implications of recommended revisions should consider the potential beneficial effects for consumers by improving availability and affordability of food products that promote adherence to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

For example, commodities processing depends on customer demand.



Closing Remarks

- ✓ California schools and policymakers have tested new approaches, with myriad success (Los Angeles Unified's participation gains, California Fresh Start).
- ✓ The panel's Proposed principles, criterion and approaches (along with revisions to accessibility, environment and resources) will lead to better results.
- ✓ Healthy habits for life!