



July 12, 2006

square meals

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Subject: TPSNP Revisions effective August 1, 2006

I.I.S.D.
SUPT. OFFICE

Dear Superintendent/Principal:

We have received many excellent suggestions this summer concerning proposed revisions to the Texas Public School Nutrition Policy. Based on the thoughtful comments we received, we are convinced that the following revisions are immediately necessary to clarify the policy's intent and to help child nutrition professionals and educators alike promote a healthy environment.

As a result of specific events, the policy now specifically prohibits guest speakers and other school visitors from providing Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value (FMNV) and all other forms of candy to elementary school students.

The policy also broadens the potential sanctions that schools face for violating its provisions. It has come to our attention that, in some cases, existing penalties limited to a single day's reimbursements are not stringent enough to encourage schools to enforce the policy. Therefore, the policy now authorizes the Texas Department of Agriculture to evaluate the extent of violation and withhold meal reimbursements for up to a total of four weeks.

Meanwhile, we are considering other appropriate revisions that will clarify and strengthen the policy to capitalize on its early successes. We are convening a working group comprised of representatives from several interested stakeholders to discuss revisions that will become effective in the future. If you would like to submit any suggestions or concerns, please write to one of the addresses below.

Thank you for your continued dedication to a healthy school environment and helping our children develop nutritious eating habits.

Sincerely,

Susan Combs
Commissioner

SC/wm

cc: Child Nutrition Director

Nourishing children's bodies and minds.

A Program of the Texas Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Division
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