



Feeding Bodies. Fueling Minds.™

The *Colorado School Nutrition Association* supports the regulatory changes announced by Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue on May 1, 2017. School meal programs across the state and country have seen a decrease in participation as the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act has been implemented leaving some programs financially unstable and therefore unable to support their students or in need of funds from the district's General Education Fund. These changes bring a needed middle ground for school foodservice operators where healthy menu options will be protected and a wider variety of options can be offered to students to ensure they are receiving the nutrients they need from the meals we serve. These relatively minor changes do not represent an abolishment or rollback of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act. These changes are:

1. **Whole Grains** - The change requires at least 50% of grains offered in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs be whole grain rich. The change allows for states to grant exemptions to districts allowing service of a select number of items that are not whole grain-rich until a wider variety of items are available that are whole grain rich and appealing to students. All schools must still provide between 50% and 100% whole grain rich items, which aligns with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
2. **Sodium** – The regulatory change allows for districts to remain at the Target 1 Sodium levels until further analysis of necessity to move to the next sodium targets can be conducted. All schools must still comply with the Target 1 sodium level.
3. **Milk** – The changes allow for districts (if they choose) to sell 1% low-fat, flavored milk.

The results of these changes simply allow for school foodservice operators to best serve their customers and provide the healthy, balanced, nutritious meals needed for academic success.