



SCHOOL FOOD **DECISION MAKERS**

WHO MAKES THE DECISIONS ABOUT SCHOOL FOOD IN YOUR DISTRICT?

Find out who needs to be involved in order to change school food in your district. Here are some things you should ask/know in order to locate key decision makers in your school or district.

Are meals and snacks provided by an independent contractor? If the answer is yes, find out the following:

- ★ Which company supplies the meals?
- ★ When is their contract up for renewal?
- ★ Can the contract be changed to adopt new food?
- ★ Who manages this contract on behalf of the school?
- ★ Who manages this contract on behalf of the supplier?
- ★ Contact them and ask if both parties are amenable to changing the food.

To get things moving in the right direction, get the contact details for the people who manage the contract on behalf of the school and also on behalf of the supplier and add them to your list.

KNOW THE LAY OF THE LAND

Key decision makers at school range from the Superintendent to the students, and a whole host of staff and administrators in between. Find out who all these people are – get their names, emails and phone numbers, then contact them and ask for their support. This is about making changes to improve things for the children under all of your mutual care.



WHO MAKES THE DECISIONS?

Key contacts include:

★ **The Food Service Director**

This person might also be known as the Nutrition Services Director or Executive Chef. This person manages your school/district Nutrition Services staff – the lunch ladies.

★ **The District Board of Education**

This group makes decisions about allocating resources district wide. As a parent, you are free to lobby them in a monthly public forum. Get yourself on the agenda, attend the meetings, and make your voice heard.

★ **The Superintendent**

The Superintendent is a critical voice for change. They can allocate resources to this cause, or shift resources away. Make sure the Superintendent knows this issue is a priority for your parent committee.

★ **School Principal**

Your Principal cares about the health and wellness of all the children at your school. Let them know you want to help, and ask them to promote your cause among teachers, administrators and parents.

★ **The School Wellness Committee**

Your school may or may not have an active wellness committee. If it doesn't, now is your chance to get one started. A key part of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act is that schools must update their local school wellness policy. Although the final rule is not likely to be out until 2013, now is the time to get ahead of the game and see what's happening with your committee and how you can help get the policy in shape.

★ **Student leaders**

Students are key to the success of any changes at school. Get them involved early and keep them informed. Work with them to find creative and collaborative ways to advocate change.