



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

October 20, 2021

Ms. Beth Wallace, MBA, SNS
President
School Nutrition Association
2900 S. Quincy Street
Suite 700
Arlington, Virginia 22206

Dear Ms. Wallace:

Thank you for your letter of September 17, 2021, and your support and interest in the launching of the Global School Meals Coalition.

On the occasion of the UN Food Systems Summit, the United States joins countries around the world in coalition to work together to ensure that every child has access to a healthy meal every school day. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is a leader in school meals, both domestically and internationally. Our partnership with the School Nutrition Association and its members in meeting the nutrition needs of school children across the Nation is integral to that leadership.

As a member of the coalition, USDA will continue to lead by strengthening its domestic programs to maximize access and participation, focusing on science-based nutrition standards, delivering effective nutrition education and promotion, and fostering and facilitating local procurement. Several initiatives are being planned by the coalition, one of which is a Peer-to-Peer Community of Best Practices. This peer-to-peer network will be a platform for countries to share lessons learned in a national and local context and inform and disseminate evidence-based policy and program standards and guidance to strengthen school meals programs.

It is my hope that the coalition will bolster global food security, build resilience to future shocks, and foster multilateral collaboration in support of the nutritional, health, and educational wellbeing of school children and adolescents both at home and abroad.

Thank you for your interest and ongoing partnership in supporting the health and education of the Nation's children. Please share a copy of this letter with your colleague.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jewel Bronaugh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Dr. Jewel H. Bronaugh
Deputy Secretary