



## 2015 Position Paper Reauthorization of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act

### **Restore the initial requirement that at least half of grains offered through school lunch and breakfast programs be whole grain rich.**

SNA supports the July 2012 requirement that half of all grains offered with school meals be whole grain rich. However, the 2014 mandate that *all* grains must be whole grain rich has increased waste and contributed to the decline in student lunch participation.

Students are eating more whole grain breads and buns, but some schools are struggling to find acceptable specialty whole grain items. Challenges include limited availability of whole grain rich foods, higher costs and regional preferences for certain refined grains such as bagels or biscuits.

In a recent SNA [survey](#), more than 60% of school nutrition directors anticipated the 2014 whole grain mandate would increase meal costs and present procurement challenges for the 2014-15 school year.

Schools should be permitted to serve white rice or tortillas on occasion, just like most families do. Restoring the requirement that half of all grains offered be whole grain rich will ensure students continue to receive a variety of whole grain choices in school, while limiting waste.