

Simplifying Regulations

Program Complexities Add to School Nutrition Costs

Background:

Federal child nutrition regulations play an important role in ensuring the uniformity and consistency of school meal programs for students nationwide. However, the overwhelming complexity of child nutrition regulations and administrative requirements is unnecessarily hindering efforts to better serve students. ***Program complexities add to school nutrition costs.***

*The Government Accountability Office found USDA issued nearly **4,700 pages** of guidance on the updated standards between Jan. 2012 and Apr. 2015.*

Schools spend an excessive amount of time reviewing policy memos and preparing paperwork in advance of the cumbersome Administrative Review process. Duplicative and overly burdensome administrative mandates make inefficient use of school nutrition directors' time, keeping them at their desks instead of in cafeterias, interacting with students and staff. That time could be better utilized for program improvements, such as hosting student taste tests, planning nutrition education initiatives and improving cafeteria operations.

SNA urges Congress and USDA to simplify regulations to improve efficiencies and provide \$1 million to conduct an independent study of the federal Child Nutrition Programs. The study would help identify key steps to simplify child nutrition programs and ease burdens on School Food Authorities and State Agencies.

Learn more at
schoolnutrition.org



**Feeding Bodies.
Fueling Minds.™**

**SCHOOL
NUTRITION
ASSOCIATION**