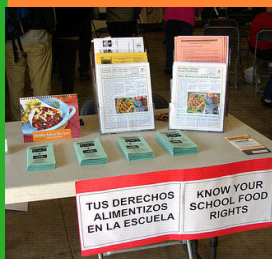




Spring 2008  
Second Edition

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### Contact Us Get Involved

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*The Healthy School Food Coalition is a project of the Center for Food and Justice at Occidental College's Urban and Environment Policy Institute.*

# HEALTHY SCHOOL FOOD COALITION

*Working to Improve Nutrition in LAUSD*

## 2 year Anniversary Celebration of the Cafeteria Improvement Motion



Our January 2008 monthly meeting/training, was a celebration in honor of the hard work students, parents, teachers, community members and Board Member Marlene Canter's office put into the passing of the Cafeteria Improvement Motion on Dec. 13th, 2005. (<http://caf-la.lausd.k12.ca.us/motion.htm>) This motion helped reduce the sodium, sugar and fat in our school meals. It also began a process to decrease the length of time students wait in line.

Once a motion or law is passed it is up to us, the community, to Make sure it is being implemented. HSFC members are committed to seeing the work through and have been vigilant as to what happens in their cafeterias. For example, parents at Hoover have developed an informational flyer and have distributed them to parents after school and students at Garfield have presented to their classmates about their "School Food Rights".

We came together to celebrate all of our work and to formally thank Mrs. Canter formally, for her continuous efforts to combat childhood obesity and improve the overall health of all LAUSD students. There are many schools where this motion is not being fully implemented. You are the key to making it happen. Let's all work together and have a healthy school environment that will not only benefit the health of our youth, but also improve their academics and the overall well being, of the schools and our communities.

Is the CIC Motion being fully implemented in your school? Call us to make a difference in your school food.



## Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) meet LAUSD's Chef and participate in a Discussion Group

Youth representing 9 different schools and 4 local LAUSD districts came together on Feb. 20th to participate in the Menu and Marketing's Sub-Committee's first Student Discussion Group. We meet at Roosevelt HS and are very appreciative of the school's administration for their willingness to let us use their facilities. The people impacted the most by what happens in school cafeterias

are the students and therefore we are excited that this kinds of activities happen. LAUSD Chef Mark Baida and Daniel H. Onofre the Food Services Branch's Marketing Representative, were present to hear students' suggestions and concerns over their school food experiences. The other sub-committee members that participated are: (continuous of other side)



## In the Legislature

By Matt Sharp, CA Food Policy Advocates [www.cfpa.org](http://www.cfpa.org)



*"Studies have shown that children whose nutritional needs are met have fewer attendance and discipline problems, and their ability to learn is enhanced. In addition, those schools that have a National School Lunch Program (NSLP) make more efficient use of their food service department by also operating a School Breakfast Program."*

CA Dept. of Education  
[www.cde.ca.gov/1x/nw/in/sbp.asp](http://www.cde.ca.gov/1x/nw/in/sbp.asp)

How do votes in Washington D.C., and Sacramento change what's on school lunch trays in South Central, El Sereno, Pico-Union or East LA? Your state and federal legislators are very involved in school nutrition, making decisions that shape the state of the plate. In this section of the newsletter, we hope to bring you updates about relevant developments in the halls of power. Why legislation? Congress, USDA and the State Legislature make decisions about the level of funding available to school districts to serve meals, which directly affects the money available to buy food, pay staff and improve facilities. In the upcoming editions of this newsletter, we will bring you information on opportunities – and threats – to school meals programs and provide you simple steps you can take to make sure our elected officials are more responsive to the needs of the students.

If you've opened up a newspaper this winter, you

certainly know that the state is facing a \$16 billion budget shortfall, generating proposed cuts from the Governor to the state's schools. State funds for school meals will be reduced by \$0.02 per meal, if the legislature adopts the Governor's spending plan. To preserve investments in school nutrition, invite your assembly member to visit your cafeteria. Make sure they see the work you are doing and the resources needed to improve student nutrition programs. But, not all progress has been stalled in Sacramento. Legislators have introduced bills to expand school breakfast (AB1966), remove barriers to offering water in eating areas (AB2704), and to directly connect families receiving MediCAL with free school meals (AB2300). Once the furor over the beef recall settles, legislators make take a careful look at preserving nutrition investments and strengthening cafeteria programs. **Get involved.**

### continuation of Student Discussion Group

Sissy Trinh of SEACA-LA, Matt Sharp of CFPA, Andrea Giancoli Of Marlene Canter's office, David Binkle a Deputy Brach Director of the Food Services Branch and Elizabeth Medrano and myself, Laura Palomares, of the HSFC. As you can see from the photos, the youth participated in a variety of activities, which made the afternoon fun as well as educational. The group of



Wilson HS students giving their opinions at the Photo Gallery activity.

youth that participated in this first of many student discussion groups was made up of students from the YAC. The YAC students meet monthly. They are leaders in efforts to improve their school food and access to it. The YAC was started by the HSFC and SEACA-LA in our efforts to have youth's voices in the forefront. — contact us to join!



Chef Baida, explaining how to fill out the Milk taste testing forms.



Getting to talk to each other about their school food experiences during the Human Bingo activity.

## Hunger Action Day, 2007

**Advocacy: Sounds Good, and Good For You! Trainings Scheduled: March and April**

Hunger Action LA and Community Health Councils present:  
 A FREE Training On How To Educate Your Elected Officials On Hunger and Poverty

**South LA:** Community Health Councils, 3731 Stocker Street, Los Angeles 90008  
 Afternoon: Thursday, March 27 (2-3:30pm) // Evening: Thursday, April 3 (6-7:30pm)

**Valley:** SOVA 6439 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys 91406  
 Afternoon: Tuesday, April 8 (3-4:30pm) // Evening: Tuesday, April 8 (6-7:30pm)

**Central LA:** SEIU Local 721 500 S. Virgil LA 90020  
 Afternoon: Thursday, April 17 (2-3:30pm) // Evening: Thursday April 17 (6-7:30pm)

We'll prepare you for speaking with elected officials about hunger & food security and fixing a state budget that prioritizes yacht owners over the poor. You'll also learn about Hunger Action Day & more!

RSVP with your name, phone number, and which training you will attend to:  
 Frank Tamborello at Hunger Action LA 213 388-8228/ [frank@hungeractionla.org](mailto:frank@hungeractionla.org)

Did you know that LAUSD joined the American Dietetic Association is celebrating March as National Nutrition Month and the first week in March as National Breakfast Week? This year's theme is "Nutrition: It's a Matter of Fact"