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## Publication of Income Eligibility Guidelines Delayed

The Department of Health and Human Services has delayed publication of updated poverty guidelines. This delay has stalled the publication of the income eligibility guidelines for the Child Nutrition Programs. A USDA memo dated June 11, 2010, notes that the delay in publication will impact the ability of school food authorities and other organizations to make eligibility determinations after June 30, 2010, the expiration date of the current eligibility guidelines. Until further notice, school food authorities should

use the current 2009-10 eligibility guidelines to make eligibility determinations.

For additional information, please see the complete memo through this link.

[www.foodserve.com/usda/income\\_eligibility.pdf](http://www.foodserve.com/usda/income_eligibility.pdf)

Article provided by:

[www.schoolnutrition.org](http://www.schoolnutrition.org)

## Encouraging Academic Improvement Through Healthy Vending Coupons



students for raising their class test scores, or improved study habits or improved behavior.

The students can then take these coupons to your vending machines, insert them into the bill acceptor and receive a free credit on the machine for a single vend from whatever selections you determine is appropriate for these coupons... free fruit or beverage or snack at whatever value limit you choose to set.

You can offer your Administrators and your Scholastic Department Managers a great new incentive for promoting behavior improvement and academic improvement at your schools... and make a greater profit for the Nutrition Department at the same time. School vending machines from Vend-ucation can come equipped with coupon acceptance. These coupons are printed with special magnetic ink and when inserted into the bill acceptor establish a credit for a free vend, for a specific range of products (not just anything in the machine). There are a lot of ways to use this feature in schools.

The High School Principal at Mount View School in Thorndike Maine awards coupons every week to students "caught doing something good." She also includes a couple coupons in every birthday card she personally mails to every student throughout the school year (all 500). The coupon offers these students a range of free selections worth 75 cents each. Everyone wins. The Principal enjoys handing out coupons for free healthy beverages and snacks that can only be redeemed in the school. The Nutrition Department enjoys greater sales as well as supporting the administration. The students enjoy getting free snacks and beverages in front of their peers with coupons that cost them nothing. Everyone wins!

You can pre-sell these coupons to the Math or Science or English Departments for full or discounted value. They can offer these coupon incentive 'carrots' to

Learn more about this feature at the link below:

[www.vendingmachinesschools.com/healthy-school-vending.html](http://www.vendingmachinesschools.com/healthy-school-vending.html)

# Schools Receive \$10,000 to Help Students Eat their Veggies

The makers of Hidden Valley® Salad Dressings awarded 10 elementary schools each with a \$10,000 Love Your Veggies™ nutrition grant to support programs aiming to increase access to and consumption of fresh produce at school meals during the 2010-2011 school year. Now in its fourth year, the Hidden Valley® Love Your Veggies™ school grant program has awarded \$850,000 to nearly 80 elementary schools nationwide to help fund the implementation of fresh fruit and vegetable education programs in the lunchroom and in the classroom.

In partnership with the School Nutrition Foundation, the Love Your Veggies™ school grant program was established following the 2004 Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act, which required school districts to adopt local school wellness policies to strengthen nutrition and exercise programs. The larger Love Your Veggies™ program, created after a study found that children tend to eat more vegetables when paired with a moderate amount of ranch dressing, also provides support to moms in the form of recipes, tools and tips to help their families enjoy more vegetables.

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**“We know that 31 million American children eat lunch at school and that improving nutritional offerings in the lunchroom is increasingly a priority,”**

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“We know that 31 million American children eat lunch at school and that

improving nutritional offerings in the lunchroom is increasingly a priority,” said Priscilla Tuan, brand manager for Hidden Valley® products. “We’re excited to contribute by offering these schools additional resources to provide well-balanced meals and nutrition programs that are crucial to teaching children how to develop life-long nutritional eating habits.”

In addition to these ten grants, the Love Your Veggies™ grant program also awarded a \$10,000 grant to St. Lawrence Catholic Church & School in Indianapolis, Ind. through a Twitter contest that ran Sept. 21-Oct. 2. Elementary schools were asked to tweet their 140 character application to @HVRanch and then launch a re-tweet campaign for their chance to win.

## WINNING SCHOOLS SHOWCASE CREATIVE IDEAS FOR NUTRITION PROGRAMS

More than 400 applications were received and 10 recipients were chosen based on financial need, creativity and innovation of the proposed vegetable program, the programs’ ability to make a sustainable impact on students as well as its potential for community involvement.

### *The winning schools and programs include:*

- **Agua Fria Elementary School** in Santa Fe, New Mexico: Will allow students the opportunity to work with The Community Farm, a non-profit organization, to grow their own fresh, organic produce.

- **West Bendle Elementary School** in Burton, Mich.: Will help students develop healthy eating habits by providing samples of a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, working in their raised-bed garden and learning to cook using fresh produce.

- **Hillside Elementary School** in San Leandro, Calif.: Will work with educators to use the existing garden as an outdoor classroom and to implement a healthy snack regimen.

- **Veterans Park Academy for Arts** in Lehigh Acres, Fla.: Will involve students by having them grow and maintain a vegetable garden, take weekly nutri-

tion classes and learn to use fresh fruits and veggies in the kitchen.

- **Northport School District 211** in Northport, Wash.: Will provide students hands-on experience from planting seeds all the way through to consuming fresh produce.

- **PS 6 West Farms School** in New York, N.Y.: Will expose students to unique fruits and vegetables by incorporating them into a new, healthy menu item each week.

- **Chappell Elementary School** in Green Bay, Wis.: Will grant students access to a fresh salad bar in the lunchroom and provide a fresh fruit or vegetable snack daily.

- **Carson School** in Cincinnati, Ohio: Will educate students with nutrition lessons and engage them in an after-school program that will create excitement about vegetables and encourage best nutrition practices.

- **John C. Martinez Elementary School** in Parlier, Calif.: Will allow the students to learn about and taste test a new fruit or vegetable every month.

- **Shonto Preparatory School** in Shonto, Ariz.: Will use existing garden and greenhouse to grow vegetables and allow access to fresh produce year round.

For more on the Love Your Veggies™ campaign and how the grant recipients will implement their winning programs, visit:

[www.LoveYourVeggies.com](http://www.LoveYourVeggies.com)

Article provided by:



[www.schoolnutrition.org](http://www.schoolnutrition.org)

# The Journal of Child Nutrition and Management is Now Online!

The Journal of Child Nutrition and Management features research that can assist school nutrition professionals and others in responding to both critics and supporters of school nutrition programs. The articles in this issue address important aspects regarding the management of nutrition programs for children of all ages.

In one article, the authors describe the role of school gardens as an approach to increasing fruit and vegetable consumption. Tips and recommendations for implementing school garden programs also are featured.

In another study, researchers examined food consumption patterns among Caucasian and Hispanic elementary school children. They concluded that school nutrition professionals can provide familiar nutritious meals to students of different ethnic backgrounds by surveying students, gathering recipes from parents and asking students to participate in the selection of new menu items.

Looking to boost children's consumption of healthy foods? Researchers designed two studies to explore the effects of visible cheese as an ingredi-

ent to menu items on the consumption by middle school students of fruits, vegetables and whole-grain products. They found that the addition of cheese in various forms was well received.

Another article describes the analysis of supply factors and prices for USDA Foods in the National School Lunch Program, using price and supply consistency from the school district perspective. The author recommends that districts apply more thorough monitoring of the commodity and commercial supply incomes in their local areas.

Authors developed and validated a survey to allow school nutrition directors and managers to identify and approach issues related to the non-participation of high school students in the National School Lunch Program. Two researchers identified the perceptions, practices and training needs of child care center directors in creating and maintaining wellness environments. Their research is intended to serve as a foundation for developing a best practice resource designed to assist child care center professionals in implementing or assessing wellness initiatives.

Another topic examined in this issue is the prevalence of special food and nutrition needs in school nutrition programs. This research will help school nutrition directors and managers to prepare for issues and actions related to meeting the special needs of children with food allergies.

The Spring 2010 issue of The Journal of Child Nutrition and Management also includes a summary of child nutrition research conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service.

The Journal of Child Nutrition and Management is published twice a year. Each refereed electronic issue provides timely and relevant insights into the many challenges and opportunities inherent in school nutrition programs.

To read The Journal of Child Nutrition & Management online, please visit:

[www.schoolnutrition.org/Content.aspx?id=14018](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/Content.aspx?id=14018)

Article provided by:

[www.schoolnutrition.org](http://www.schoolnutrition.org)

## ...WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

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