NOTICE

Date: July 18, 2005
Reference: # NSLP/SBP 2005-11
To: National School Lunch/School Breakfast Program (NSLP/SBP) Contractors
Subject: Healthier US School Challenge

Purpose
This notice is to inform National School Lunch/School Breakfast Program (NSLP/SBP) contractors of the Healthier US School Challenge.

Procedure
The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is encouraging schools to help students learn to make healthy eating and active lifestyle choices. USDA has established the Healthier US School Challenge to recognize schools that have made the commitment and are achieving nutrition excellence demonstrated by:
• Taking a leadership role in making changes in the school’s nutrition environment;
• Improving the nutritional quality of schools meals; and
• Limiting access to other food and beverages that do not contribute to the nutritional well being of the students.

Participation
There is a basic set of criteria a school must meet to participate in the Healthier US School Challenge. To be eligible, a school must:
• Be an elementary school;
• Be enrolled as a Team Nutrition School;
• Offer reimbursable lunches that demonstrate healthy menu planning principles of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and that meet USDA standards;
• Provide nutrition education to students;
• Provide students the opportunity for physical activity;
• Maintain an Average Daily Participation of 70 percent or higher of school enrollment for reimbursable lunches; and
• Adhere to guidelines established by FNS for foods served and sold in schools in the NSLP.


Contact
If you have any questions, please contact your Area Program Office.