


**MEMORANDUM**

**December 13, 2010**

**TO:** The Honorable Chair and Members of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

**FROM:** Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools 

**SUBJECT: CHILD NUTRITION BILL PASSES CONGRESS**

Congress approved a bill re-authorizing federal child nutrition programs, including school breakfast, lunch, and after school meal programs, following a House vote of 264-157 on December 2, 2010. The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (S. 3307) increases funding on child nutrition programs by \$4.5 billion over ten years, with goals of reducing both childhood hunger and childhood obesity.

The legislation will expand the reach and funding of school meal programs upon signature by the President. Among other changes, the bill authorizes use of Medicaid data to certify eligible children and helps fund increases through \$2.2 billion from future food stamp program increases. The bill calls for new federal nutrition standards which affect the kinds of foods and ingredients that can be used on school lunch lines and in vending machines, as well as in school sponsored fundraisers to be written by the Agriculture Department. Districts that comply with the new standards will receive an extra six cents per meal, currently funded at \$2.72, thus raising the federal reimbursement rate over the inflation rate for the first time since 1973. The National School Boards Association has argued that the increased funding is not sufficient to pay for mandated changes.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Grants Administration, and Community Engagement, at 305-995-1497.

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cc: School Board Attorney  
Superintendent's Cabinet  
Dr. Marcus Moran  
Ms. Penny Parham