



ALLIANCE LEGISLATIVE REPORT (94-76)

MORE TO COME ON FOOD SERVICE RULES

As was reported in the last Alliance Legislative Report (94-75), the rules Governor Blagojevich prompted the State Board of Education to submit regarding school food service and “junk food” in elementary and middle schools have been approved. The Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) took its final action to approve the rulemaking on Tuesday.

A provision of the new rule states that “During the month of January 2007, or immediately following the release of the report of the School Wellness Policy Task Force, the State Board of Education shall initiate a revision to the food and beverage standards set forth that responds to the statewide nutrition standards recommended by the Task Force”.

The task force has completed its draft recommendations and has requested feedback from education organizations. It is imperative that school board members, superintendents, principals, and school business officials respond with comments and concerns regarding these recommendations.

A file containing the task force recommendations is attached to this report. Please review the entire list of recommendations. However, here are a few points to consider:

- Like the Governor’s rules, the task force recommends that Illinois *prescribe rigid statewide* school nutrition standards for every school district
- The task force recommendations are *more stringent* than the ISBE’s newly adopted rule
- High schools *are included* in the task force recommended nutrition standards
- *Standards are different* for pre-kindergarten through 5th grade than for grades 6-12 (this means that in a K-8 school building school personnel would have to differentiate between a 5th grader who is allowed 4 ounces of juice and a 6th grader who is allowed 12 ounces of juice)
- *No carbonated beverages* are allowed (even in high schools)
- *One size does not fit all*: under the recommended standards, both the 4-year old pre-kindergarten student and the high school senior football player would be allowed *1 ounce of cheese*

LUNCH BOX POLICE

One of the recommendations of the task force states that “food and beverages brought from home” would also have to meet the nutrition standards. This would go beyond the State dictating what foods a school district may sell to students – it would allow the State to dictate to parents what they can feed their children! This provision goes much too far and would be impossible to implement. Who in your district will be in charge of inspecting each student’s lunch box for contraband food items?

This provision would also require food and beverages brought from home that is available to students through school-sponsored events, classroom parties, classroom snacks, and student rewards to meet the State’s nutrition standards.

RESPONSES NEEDED

Given the recent action taken by the Illinois State Board of Education regarding its newly adopted rules, along with the rule provision that states that the ISBE will revise its rules to respond to the task

force recommendations – it is likely that the final task force report will be written into the food service rules for schools next January.

That is why school district administrators and board members must respond with comments and concerns to these draft rules.

Linda Dawson, a staff member from IASB, and Diane Hendren, a staff member from IASA, are members of the Task Force and will deliver our message to the full panel. School superintendents and school business officials, please send your comments to Diane at: dhendren@iasaedu.org or call her at (217) 787-9306. School board members and school principals, please send your comments to Linda at: ldawson@iasb.com or call her at (217) 528-9688, extension 1104.

Responses should be submitted not later than Friday, October 20.

STATE BOARD BUDGET HEARINGS

The State Board of Education Finance and Audit Committee has announced that it will be holding Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Hearings. Those wishing to participate in these hearings may sign-in upon arrival at each location and may bring 15 copies of written testimony. For further information, please call the State Board of Education at 217-782-2223.

October 17: ALGONQUIN, 6 – 8 pm

Board Room, Consolidated School District #158
650 Academic Drive, Algonquin, IL

October 18: LOCKPORT, 3:30 – 5:30

Maroon Room, Lockport T.H.S. East
1333 East Seventh Street, Lockport

November 8: MOLINE, 6 – 8 pm

Central Office, Allendale
1619 11th Avenue, Moline

November 14: DANVILLE, 6 – 8 pm

306 Vermilion Hall, Danville Area C.C.
2000 East Main Street, Danville

November 15: SPRINGFIELD, 3:30 – 5:30

Board Room, ISBE Office
100 North First Street, Springfield

November 29: CHICAGO, 2 – 4 pm

James R. Thompson Center, 9th Floor-031
100 West Randolph Street, Chicago

December 6: MARION, 6 – 8 pm

Marion High School Auditorium
1501 South Carbon Street, Marion

December 7: BELLEVILLE, 6 – 8 pm

Gallery Conference Room, St. Clair R.O.E.
500 Wilshire Drive, Belleville

SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGETS DUE

The ISBE has sent out a reminder that all school district budgets must be submitted electronically to the State Board no later than October 16. Last year's SB 1853 (now Public Act 94-0234) states that the "board of education of each school district shall, within or before the first quarter of each fiscal year, adopt and file with the State Board of Education an annual balanced budget". Questions can be directed to the ISBE's School Business and Support Services department at (217) 782-8779.

Alliance Legislative Reports:
Bill Text/Status: Illinois General Assembly

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