

October 5, 2012

Alan Shannon  
USDA Chicago

Dear Alan,

I wholeheartedly support the new nutrition standards for schools as set forth by the USDA. After a visit yesterday, to the Evanston Township high school, I saw nutrition standards at work as we had tables set up to introduce the students to vegetables grown from local farms.

Low-income children are vulnerable to obesity and poor nutrition because of risk factors associated with poverty, including limited resources, limited access to healthy and affordable foods, fewer opportunities for physical activity, high levels of stress, greater exposure to obesity-related marketing, and limited access to health care. Given all of these challenges, school meal programs play an important role in improving the health of low-income children.

I think that the USDA is doing great work in terms of trying to encourage healthy food for school children and should be commended.

Regards,

Jeannie Boutelle  
Board Member Slow Food Chicago  
Sustainable Food Entrepreneur