

Voices for Healthy Kids 2018-2019 Policy Levers



Community

1. SNAP—Support allowing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients to use their benefits at the market and/or funding for programs that significantly increase SNAP benefits when used on fruits and vegetables. Support waiver applications from states to the USDA to improve diet quality that adhere to the American Heart Association’s criteria for support.
2. Healthy food procurement—Support healthy vending, service, and institutional feeding food procurement policy on government property.
3. Healthy restaurant meals—Ensure all restaurant meals marketed to children meet nutrition standards. Remove sugary drinks from all restaurant children’s meals.
4. Bike and pedestrian appropriations— Support state and local financing mechanisms that create equitable, long-term funding for bicycling and walking projects and encouragement programs for communities most in need.
5. Complete streets— At the state and local level, require that all road construction and reconstruction create complete streets that are safe and convenient for all users and all modes of transportation.
6. Safe routes to school—Codify safe routes to school programs in state law and secure state level appropriations or Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) allocations for both infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects.
7. Preemption – Support the repeal of language limiting the ability of municipalities to regulate, tax or otherwise enact legislation stronger than state law regarding issues related to the Voices for Healthy Kids policy agenda. Oppose legislation limiting the ability of municipalities to regulate, tax or otherwise enact legislation stronger than state law regarding issues related to Voices for Healthy Kids policy agenda.
8. Sugary drink warning labels--Require beverage manufacturers to either change their product labels and/or marketing campaigns or adhere a label to the product at point of sale to highlight health issues related to overconsumption.

Schools

9. School foods—Work to decrease the number of fundraiser exemptions allowed in states to the Healthy, Hunger free Kids Act provisions. Monitor statewide policies for schools to implement both federal competitive foods standards and the meal standards outlined in the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act
10. Physical activity and physical education--Promote more frequent, highly effective, inclusive physical education in schools as the cornerstone of comprehensive physical activity before, during, and after the school day. Address standards-based curriculum, appropriate professional development for teacher certification/licensing, waivers/substitutions, student assessment, accountability, and best practices for adapted physical education. Support other physical activity opportunities including active transportation policy (Safe Routes to School), recess, classroom physical activity breaks, shared use policies, and intramural/club/varsity sports programs, and in other afterschool programs.

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11. Wellness policies--Establish state regulations to support and strengthen the local school wellness policy requirements of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) proposed rule under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. Support the creation and strengthening of school health councils. Focus on the elimination of marketing of unhealthy foods and beverages in schools.
12. Water access-Ensure free, clean water is accessible during the school day or extended hours while children are in programming in school buildings.
13. Every Student Succeeds Act—Increase the number of states education accountability plans that address school wellness in a more inclusive way. While addressing traditional health components such as physical education plans is a priority we should also be inclusive of holistic wellness indicators such as chronic absenteeism and graduation rates. Secure funding for physical education and health education available through block grants to states under Title IV of ESSA. Support funding through Title 1 to support related technical assistance for teachers at the most at- risk schools. Support funding through Title II to support professional development for teachers to increase physical education, activity and wellness inclusion throughout the school day.

Early Care and Education & Out-of-School Time

14. Early care & education—Establish statewide nutrition, physical activity, sugary drink, water access and screen time standards for early childcare providers. Support Quality Rating and Improvement Systems as a tool to monitor and implement HEPA standards. Secure public funding for technical assistance. Eliminate marketing in child care settings.
15. Out-of-school time providers— Secure public funding for technical assistance to assist out-of-school time programs to integrate Healthy Eating & Physical Activity (HEPA) standards into out-of-school time and/or child care licensing standards, rating systems, and programs such as recognition programs, accreditation programs, certification requirements.
16. Early Head Start/Head Start-- Support policies and funding that increase awareness of and access to Early Head Start/Head Start programs, and advance efforts to promote coordination among providers across the continuum from early care to kindergarten.