



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

DATE: October 15, 2018
SUBJECT: 2018 National School Lunch Week: Thank you!
TO: State and Local National School Lunch Program Operators

Dear Program Operators,

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy created National School Lunch Week (NSLW) to celebrate school nutrition staff and the valuable service they provide our country by ensuring that America's school children can show up to class well-nourished and ready to learn. In honor of NSLW (October 15-19, 2018), we thank you for feeding our school children.

America's schools play a critical role in the future of our Nation. The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) provides meals to more than 30 million children each school day. In 2017, more than 6 million children across America lived in food-insecure households, meaning they did not have consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life. For many children, the food they eat at school is the only consistent source of the nutritious food they need to grow and thrive.

More than seven decades ago, in 1946, President Harry Truman signed the National School Lunch Act, reminding us that "In the long view, no nation is any healthier than its children." There is "Lots 2 Love" about school lunch this week. We applaud the progress that school nutrition professionals have achieved in increasing nutritious options for our Nation's children. We also realize some schools continue to face challenges implementing the nutrition standards. As such, we continue to consider ways we can improve the NSLP and stand ready to help you meet this important mission. In addition, [Team Nutrition](#) has resources to help program operators serve wholesome lunches, including creative tips for serving fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.

As the Food and Nutrition Service acknowledges the importance of school lunch this week, we are grateful for you – the hardworking folks that make NSLP successful. We appreciate your dedication, and our partnership, that aims to ensure that children across the country have the energy to live up to their full potential each school day.

Sincerely,

Original Signed

Angela Kline
Director
Policy and Program Development Division
Child Nutrition Programs