

# Petition

To give kids the school lunch they deserve



This packet contains ready-to-print copies of the petition (in both English and Spanish) and the policy platform. **These are different documents, and when you're gathering signatures in public, you'll want to have both on hand.** Here's why:

The petition is a one-sentence statement that people sign in order to show their support for the goal of our campaign: to give kids the school lunch they deserve. We will use it to show legislators that voters support this issue, e.g. "5,000 people in your state have shown their support, alongside 50,000 people nationwide." Signing a petition is also the entry-point for supporters to get involved—by sharing their email addresses, petition-signers give us the opportunity to follow up and get them more involved.

The platform, on the other hand, is the full document explaining our policy goals, which are the actions Congress must take to give kids the school lunch they deserve. When you're asking someone to sign the petition, it's a good idea to have a copy of the platform on hand, so you can show people what they're supporting. When you're writing or calling a legislator, use the language in the platform to make your case.

Here are some ways to gather signatures:

- Setup a table at farmers' markets, food events and film screenings.
- Make photocopies, and give them to people who can get signatures on their own.
- Go out in teams. It's more fun. An organized petition day is much better than asking individual volunteers to go at their own pace.
- Always carry a copy, in case you meet someone who wants to get involved.
- Make photocopies of signed sheets before you give them away or send them to the Slow Food USA office. You need them for following up with petition signers.
- Remember that people can sign the petition online at <http://slowfoodusa.org/timeforlunch>.

To learn more about Time for Lunch, visit [www.slowfoodusa.org/timeforlunch](http://www.slowfoodusa.org/timeforlunch).





# Policy Platform

To give kids the school lunch they deserve



It's time to give young Americans the school lunch they deserve: real food that tastes good and is good for them.

The National School Lunch Program was created in 1946 “to safeguard the health and wellbeing of the Nation’s children.” It is supposed to ensure that no child goes without a healthy meal every day. Without healthy food, kids have a harder time performing well in school, staying fit and growing up to be healthy, productive adults.

But sixty years later, healthy food is not what school lunch is providing. For too long, Congress has underfunded school lunch programs, to the point that today’s schools have only \$1 per child to buy ingredients. School nutrition directors do their best to stretch that dollar, but it’s simply not enough to keep kids healthy. It’s even harder to do when junk food is sold in school vending machines, and when schools lack the resources to start nutrition programs or to buy and cook local food.

Congress is going to address school lunch in early 2010. This is our opportunity to give every young American the building blocks for a lifetime of good health.

When Congress reauthorizes the National School Lunch program, we’re calling on our elected officials to:

1. **Invest in health.** Find the funding to give school lunch programs \$1 more per child per day.
2. **Protect kids from the junk food sold in vending machines, cafeterias and school stores.** Approve the Child Nutrition Promotion and School Lunch Protection Act of 2009.
3. **Link schools to local farms, and teach healthy eating.** Guarantee \$50 million for Farm to School programs.