



FROM THIS POINT FORWARD

Georgia's School Nutrition Program

Executive Summary



**School & Community
Nutrition Program**

Georgia Department of Education

Executive Summary

Overview

The Georgia Department of Education held a Long-Range Planning Session on June 25-27, 2002. The event was co-sponsored by the Georgia School Food Service Association (GSFSA), the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders (GAEL), and the Georgia Congress of Parents and Teachers (PTA). The purpose of this meeting was to develop a five-year long-range plan for the School Nutrition Program with measurable objectives and prioritized strategies that could be incorporated into the plans of work by the co-sponsoring organizations.

The session was attended by approximately 80 people representing 13 allied agencies and organizations and 30 local school systems and focused on nutrition and health in schools. Robert Moir and George Smith of Facilitator4Hire, Inc. facilitated the session, utilizing GSFSA past presidents as co-leaders, for each topic area.

In general sessions state staff presented position papers on each of the five topic areas: Public Policy, Positive Public Image, Financial Accountability, Nutritional Integrity, and Quality Meal Service. The facilitator assisted the group in surfacing issues from each paper, and the results were used by respective topic area planning teams during their planning sessions.

The five topic area teams subsequently explored their respective topics and developed strategies to address objectives and issues they identified and prioritized. Members were assigned to the work groups, based on their prioritized preferences. All topic area teams worked from the same agenda, and the information they generated is generally consistent in format, with some minor exceptions. Each group examined its topic area through four threads or lenses: Education and Environment, Nutrition and Health, Business and Food Service, and Staff Development and Training. Some of the topic area teams generated Communication Plans to recommend how and to whom the results of the session should be communicated.

On the last day of the conference, the teams rotated through each of the four other topic area sections to review and comment on the work.

For more information on the conference agenda and the materials provided to conference participants, request a copy of *From This Point Forward, Georgia's School Nutrition Program, June 25-27, 2002*, by e-mail from Mrs. Ruth Gordon at rgordon@doe.k12.ga.us at the Georgia Department of Education. For an in-depth review of the conference proceedings, download the *Long-Range Planning Conference Proceedings, June 25-27, 2002*, from the Georgia Department of Education web site at:
<http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/nutrition/lrpconference/postconference/proceedings.html>.

This document summarizes the outcomes of the planning session. Duplicate objectives have been eliminated. Using the conference proceedings, the Georgia Department of Education will propose objectives and strategies for adoption by the State Board of Education and subsequent incorporation into the School Nutrition Program's annual plan of work.

Goals and Objectives

Positive Public Image

Goal: To have a more positive image in the eyes of our customers and stakeholders.

Objectives:

- Increase positive public perception as measured by the results of Georgia Poll.
- Educate the public about the benefits of the School Nutrition Program.
- Increase customer feedback and input for use in improvement of the program.

Nutritional Integrity

Goal: To achieve a healthy school nutrition environment while facing significant challenges.

Objectives:

- Meet nutritional standards as set forth in the Healthy School Meal Initiative (SMI) for all meals selected by Georgia students.
- Include height/weight Body Mass Indexes (BMIs) for students in primary grades (K-3) in current health screenings.
- Increase opportunities for supervised physical activity within and outside the classroom.
- Increase student participation in school breakfast program.
- Decrease the number of foods of low nutritional value available to students in vending machines.

Public Policy

Goal: To acquire and manage resources within the public arena for the purpose of attaining program goals and satisfying customers and stakeholders.

Objectives:

- Offer breakfast to all school age children at no charge to their families.
- Reduce the number of overweight school age children.
- Reduce the school nutrition employee turnover rate.
- Establish a statewide database on chronic health conditions commonly found in school age children.
- Increase the scope of business and management training provided to food service professionals in school nutrition.

Financial Accountability

Goal: Maximize the use of financial and operation data as decision-making tools in the School Nutrition Program.

Objectives:

- Increase the number of employees trained in school nutrition program financial management and accounting.
- Increase the number of systems that maintain meal expenditures within 95% of revenue.
- Provide financial comparison data for small, medium, and large school districts.
- Identify appropriate comparison data that can be used to evaluate cost effectiveness of commodity processing.
- Increase the percentage of districts with at least one month's net cash resources.
- Increase the data sets available to local systems.

Quality Meal Service

Goal: Provide quality, food items that are affordable, appealing, flavorful, safe and nutritious, in a timely manner and in a pleasant environment to meet the wants and needs of Georgia's students.

Objectives:

- Increase student participation at all grade levels.
- Increase cultural awareness of all levels of employees through training.
- Achieve a specified maximum wait time for meal service at all grade levels.
- Increase the number of favorable responses to the questions related to food quality on the Georgia Poll.
- Develop a resource of consisting of entrée recipes with instructions, Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP), photographs, garnishes, and information for standardization.
- Establish a training program that addresses specific areas on a regularly scheduled basis.
- Increase the number and variety of weekly side dishes.
- Provide HACCP training to all school nutrition directors and managers.

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