



# The Lunch Line

Bureau of Nutrition, Health and Transportation Services

The Iowa Department of Education

Please route to:

- Food Service Director
- Kitchen Staff

- Record Keeper
- Principal

- Superintendent
- \_\_\_\_\_

Summer, 2009

## TEAM NUTRITION IOWA™



### **Congratulations Perry for providing a healthier school environment for your children!**

We congratulate Perry Elementary School for being the fifth school in Iowa to receive a HealthierUS School Challenge award! This USDA award is the highest nationally recognized award for making changes to the school nutrition environments, providing physical activity opportunities, improving the quality of the foods served and providing students with more nutritious, healthy choices. Perry has won the Silver award. They offered legumes, whole grain products and dark green and orange fruits and vegetables in the school lunch on a regular basis. A special school award ceremony was held on May 14<sup>th</sup> in Perry. The ceremony was congratulatory in nature, involved various dignitaries and provided fun for the children!

Please see <http://tinyurl.com/m5zg3z> for additional HealthierUS School Challenge information.

## **2009 Summer Food Service Program**

All the signs are telling us the 2009 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) has started, the last required Iowa Communications Network 2009 SFSP training is finished; on-line applications from previously-arranged new sponsors as well as from returning sponsors are now being submitted to the State Agency for review and approval; and, the cool spring breezes are here as a precursor to the warm summer winds.

2009 may be a banner year with a possible record number of new sponsors as well as most/all returning sponsors. Thanks to all the new and returning sponsors; you will help many children, your community and employees. "It's never too early to think about 2010." For more information about the SFSP, contact Rod Bakken, SFSP Administrative Consultant at: (515) 281-4760 or [rod.bakken@iowa.gov](mailto:rod.bakken@iowa.gov)

# Wellness Policy Tracker



## Want to evaluate how well your school is doing on your Wellness Policy or see how healthy your school environment is?

Action for Healthy Kids online **Wellness Policy Tracker** is a new tool designed for this very purpose. You will find it easy to use and useful to assess and monitor the implementation of your wellness policy. The information you enter will be saved, so please visit the site again and sign in with your email address and password in order to access your previous work.

Schools can use this tracker to assess how their district policies are being implemented at the building level. School districts can use this tracker to assess the contents of the district policy and may use it to track how each school is implementing their policy. Your wellness committee can use it to track progress and print reports to share with school administration. The tracker contains a comprehensive list of six wellness policy components as identified in Action for Healthy Kids' [Wellness Policy Fundamentals](#), developed in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Food Research and Action Center, and the United States Department of Agriculture Log. Log on today at <http://tinyurl.com/nfu4ax> and track your wellness progress!

## USDA Foods



If you have been involved with the lunch program for any length of time, you can probably remember back to the days when butter was offered as a commodity.

The Child Nutrition Commodity program is evaluating all of their products to ensure that the food offered to states will assist schools in meeting the Dietary

Guidelines for Americans. In Iowa, we are doing the same thing. As a result, directors will notice changes in their list of commodities available for the coming school year.

## Balancing Entitlement and Health

USDA eliminated shortening from their offerings last year. Whole grain pasta, oatmeal, and brown rice will now be available in Iowa. Low sodium canned vegetables will be offered beginning with the 2010 school year.

In order for entitlement funds to be available for new healthy commodities, other items had to be deleted from the current list of food available. All of the salad dressings that were previously available as processed commodities will no longer be offered through the commodity program. This decision was easy to make as our state works toward offering products that will help schools meet the Dietary Guidelines for Americans as part of their School Meals Initiative goals.