

# IDAHO POTATO PULSE



Brought to you by the Idaho Potato Commission  
Website: [www.idahopotato.com](http://www.idahopotato.com)

This week, the National Potato Council held an informational luncheon to highlight the efforts of the Potato Industry to keep Potatoes in School Nutrition programs. We are sharing some of the materials with you. Please take note of the links below. Our Congressional Delegation supports keeping potatoes in schools, but we're sure they'd like to know that you support them in taking this position.

Also, attached you will find a number of recent published articles.

## Action Alert

NATIONAL  
POTATO  
COUNCIL

# Keep Potatoes in Schools!

***The Associated Press: Kids Say 'Potato,' USDA Says 'Poh-tay-NO'***  
***NPR: USDA Wants to Limit Potatoes in School Lunches***  
***Hearst News: This Time, the Skirmish is Over Potatoes***

Make no mistake, **potatoes and other nutritious vegetables are under attack from government regulators** proposing to create new rules limiting the amount that kids can be served in school cafeterias.

At a time when 90 percent of U.S. children are not getting enough vegetables in their diets, we should be encouraging kids to eat more veggies, *not less!*

Yet, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is in the process of finalizing regulations that would **limit school lunch servings of potatoes, corn, green peas and lima beans to one cup per week – total!**

**Now is the time to make your voice heard! [Tell your members of Congress to protect vegetables against serving limitations in schools.](#)**

Potatoes are served in schools in a variety of healthy ways. [Nine out of 10 potatoes](#) are baked, boiled, mashed or otherwise prepared and served in schools without a fryer, and only 11 percent of schools today even have fryers. Even the "French fries" are typically baked, and contain less than 110 calories per serving.

Those who work on cafeteria front lines – school food service directors – do not support this new, expensive federal mandate. It will cost cash-strapped local schools up to \$6.8 billion over five years to implement the changes, and the vast majority of food service directors don't think the rules will do anything to improve the quality of children's health.

**Go to [PotatoesInSchools.com](http://PotatoesInSchools.com) and send a grassroots email to Congress. It takes less than 30 seconds to help *tell USDA to keep their hands off kid's potatoes!***