

Making Change Happen, One Meal at a Time

A note from Action for Healthy Kids

The Healthy Meals Incentives (HMI) Initiative brought together passionate, determined professionals united by one belief that has driven extraordinary work: kids deserve access to healthy, high-quality meals at school every single day.

This year's Virtual Summit showed what's possible when that belief takes center stage. Across the country, school nutrition professionals like you are leading the way in creating healthier schools and brighter futures for students, and I want to thank you for all that you do. Your leadership, heart, and hard work are shaping student health, strengthening school communities, and reminding students that they are cared for, seen, and valued. Whether you shared your school nutrition innovations with us through the HMI Initiative, or inspired healthier students out of the spotlight, you are raising the bar for what school meals can be, and the impact of your work goes far beyond the cafeteria.

At Action for Healthy Kids, we believe healthy children make a better world, and that belief fuels everything we do. School meals are at the heart of that mission. Studies show that nutritious school meals lead to better academic performance, stronger emotional well-being, and reduced absenteeism. Every meal you serve builds upon the next, shaping a healthier future for every child who walks through your cafeteria doors.

While the HMI Initiative has come to a close, the momentum you've sparked should carry forward. I'm not sure there has ever been a more important moment for all of us to work together to ensure kids have what they need to grow, learn, and thrive. Kids' needs cannot be put on hold – their nutrition, their health, and their mental well-being depend on what we do today.

I urge you, as leaders in school nutrition, to keep pushing, keep improving, and keep believing in the power of your work. Continue fostering partnerships with local farms. Involve parents and your community. Empower students to share ideas and take ownership. These are the foundations that make strong school nutrition programs, and the way we'll continue to grow and scale our impact on child health.

As you move forward, we want to remain in your corner. As we celebrate your incredible work, we are thrilled to invite you to continue your journey with Action for Healthy Kids as part of our **National School District Health and Wellness Impact Network** – a no cost national community for districts committed to whole child health. Together, we can continue sharing ideas, supporting one another, and lifting up the stories that inspire change.

School nutrition is powerful, essential, and rooted in care. Thank you again for bringing that to life every day, with every meal served. Every decision, every program, and every partnership brings us closer to our ultimate goal: stronger schools and healthier kids. We're grateful to you for joining us in making that vision a reality, and we look forward to continuing this work together.

With gratitude,



Rob Bisceglie
Chief Executive Officer
Action for Healthy Kids



HEALTHY
MEALS
INCENTIVES

