

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VENDING MACHINES AND CHILD NUTRITION

- WHEREAS, Sufficient evidence of the relationship between dietary factors and chronic disease prompted national health organizations to issue dietary recommendations for children older than two years old; and
- WHEREAS, A recent survey of children ages 2 to 19 years reported that only 2% met recommendations of the USDA's Food Guide Pyramid while 11% met none of them. Only 30% met recommendations for fruit and meat, 36% met grain recommendations, 38% for vegetables and 54% dairy. Children's failure to consume the recommended servings as outlined* creates serious calcium, iron, and dietary fiber deficiencies which can affect bone growth and contribute to developmental delays and increased risk of obesity and other diseases; and
- WHEREAS, School vending machines with nutrient limited-products such as sugary punches, soft drinks, candy bars, and chips, compete for young children's appetites and their consumption of more nutrient-dense foods, such as milk, fruits and vegetables, and grains served with school meals and at home; and
- WHEREAS, One in five children in the US is overweight and nutrient-limited products add to obesity problems as children become more sedentary; and
- WHEREAS, The school environment should be consistent with core curriculum objectives that teach and support healthy nutritional lifestyles and consumer practices; and
- WHEREAS, Schools, Districts, and school foundations are being enticed with potential profits from school vending machine products at the expense of children's health; now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That Utah PTA work with Utah Nutrition Council and affiliated nutrition organizations to educate district and local school administrators and PTA units regarding the health-related consequences of nutrient-limited vending machines targeted at children in elementary school; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA educate school administrators, foundations and PTA units about the pitfalls of commercializing the elementary school environment for profit at the expense of the health and well being of children, and encourage all school related entities to place education and welfare of their children at a higher level of priority than school vending machine profits to underwrite miscellaneous elementary school needs; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and local PTA units seek district, school, and education foundation policies which prohibit school vending machines which dispense nutrient-limited products at the elementary school level.