



www.nsba.org
Phone: 703.838.NSBA Fax: 703.683.7590
1680 Duke Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314 -3493

May 15, 2015

The Honorable Todd Rokita
Chairman
Subcommittee on Early Childhood,
Elementary and Secondary Education
United States House of Representatives
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: *Follow-up to our April meeting and hearing on "Addressing Waste, Fraud, and Abuse in Federal Child Nutrition Programs"*

Dear Chairman Rokita:

Thank you for meeting with me in April. I enjoyed our discussion around the Student Success Act (H.R. 5), FERPA and child nutrition, issues of great importance to 90,000 local school board members across the country. As I mentioned previously, we greatly appreciate your leadership on these legislative priorities, as they directly impact the success of our nation's students, and school districts' ability to deliver a high-quality education and provide healthy meals to students. Also, your legislative assistant, Mark Cruz, was very helpful during our visit and we have since followed up and provided him with *Data in the Cloud*, NSBA's guide for school boards on the legal issues associated with protecting student data and suggesting best practices.

Tuesday's hearing is an important step in the process to reauthorize the *Child Nutrition Act (CNA)*, as it could identify ways to improve child nutrition programs and prevent waste, fraud and abuse. The National School Boards Association (NSBA) supports maintaining and strengthening integrity in the administration of federal programs, and believes that local leadership is integral to doing so. Assuring that school districts - which house school food authorities - have sufficient capacity to efficiently and effectively administer federal school lunch and breakfast programs is vital to the success of those programs and to our students. Further, eliminating overly prescriptive federal requirements and unfunded mandates could address conditions that contribute to errors in administration. For example, conducting enhanced verification of eligibility could be challenging for school food authorities simultaneously complying with multiple and changing national requirements for nutrition, training, education, indirect cost attribution, wellness policy implementation and other mandates in the current law.

NSBA urges Congress and the U. S. Department of Agriculture to grant autonomy and relief for school districts to successfully administer school meal programs by enacting policy to make implementation feasible within available federal resources.

Our Mission
Working with and
Through our State
Associations,
NSBA Advocates
for Equity and
Excellence in
Public Education
through School
Board Leadership

**Office of
Advocacy**

John D. Tuttle
President

Thomas J. Gentzel
Executive Director

Lucy Gettman
Deputy Associate
Executive Director

NSBA will continue to work with you and the Committee to reauthorize these critically important programs that provide our public school students with healthy, nutritious meals as part of the high quality education they deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Gentzel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'T'.

Thomas J. Gentzel
Executive Director, NSBA

Cc: Mark Cruz
Mandy Schaumburg