

# Costs of Nutrition Standards Threaten School Meal Programs

The School Nutrition Association (SNA) supports strong nutrition standards, including caps on calories and fat and mandates to offer fruits, vegetables and whole grains. Yet under the new rules, more than 1 million fewer students choose school lunch each day (USDA). **Schools need more funding and commonsense flexibility to bring students back to healthy school meals.**

*"We all want schools to increase scratch-preparation using fresh, whole ingredients, but they are losing the necessary resources to achieve these goals."*  
SNA President, Jean Ronnei, SNS



**8 in 10** programs have taken steps to offset financial losses, such as cutting reserve funds & limiting menu choices

Nearly **70%** of districts are very concerned about availability of foods that meet future sodium limits; another **24%** are concerned



Nearly **HALF** of programs have reduced staffing, leaving fewer hands to do more work



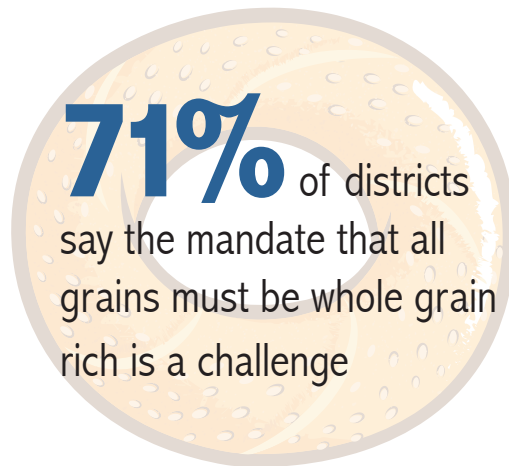
**74%**

of districts with a la carte services reported this revenue has declined, leaving less money to offset higher costs



**71%**

of districts say the mandate that all grains must be whole grain rich is a challenge



Source: SNA 2015 Trends Report

**Congress must provide more funding and flexibility for school meal programs. Visit [SchoolNutrition.org/PositionPaper](http://SchoolNutrition.org/PositionPaper) to learn more.**