



JUNE 2003 AGENDA

SUBJECT Funding approval to provide 1) professional development courses in nutrition and food service management for child nutrition personnel and 2) instructional strategies and courses for child nutrition personnel and teachers.	X	ACTION
	X	INFORMATION
		PUBLIC HEARING

Recommendation:

We recommend approval to use \$260,000 in General Fund to contract with the three CAL-PRO-NET Centers to provide professional development courses in nutrition and food service management, including food safety.

Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action

In January 2003, the State Board approved \$145,000 as follows:

- 1) Professional development courses in nutrition, including the federal School Meals Initiative Menu Planning System the California Professional Nutritional Education and Training (CAL-PRO-NET) centers; and
- 2) Professional development and technical assistance to school teachers through regional school garden resource centers.

Summary of Key Issue(s)

In 1975, the California State Legislature enacted the Child Nutrition Facilities Act that provides funds for nutrition education projects and requires State Board of Education approval. The Nutrition Services Division uses these funds to provide support to local educational agencies for a variety of nutrition programs and the education and training of child nutrition personnel.

CAL-PRO-NET training centers at Fresno City College, San Jose State University, and Cal Poly Pomona will provide food service education courses for child nutrition personnel, and instructional strategy courses for child nutrition personnel and teachers. In addition to nutrition education courses and effective teaching strategies courses, the services obtained from the CAL-PRO-NET centers will enable CDE to meet state food safety certification requirements and federal training mandates for child nutrition personnel related to healthy menu planning. The courses will be offered through three contracts in the amount of \$85,000 each for San Jose State and Cal Poly Pomona, and \$90,000 for Fresno City College.

Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate)

Every year the State Board of Education approves funding for nutrition education programs pursuant to the Education Code guidelines. To maintain consistency and minimize disruption of service to schools and child care agencies, the funding period will be from October 1, 2003, through September 30, 2004. The \$260,000 from the 2002-2003 General Fund will fund contracts with the three CAL-PRO-NET centers. These funds will be used to support nutrition and food service education activities. Unspent funds revert to the General Fund.

Attachment(s)

Background information on the contracts is provided in Attachment A

[Attachment A: Background for Nutrition Education Funds \(Pages 1-2\)](#)

Background for Nutrition Education Funds

LEGISLATION

State Budget Item 6110-021-0001 requires the Department of Education to spend these funds for nutrition education. Nutrition Services Division requests that \$260,000 of these funds be used for contracts to continue existing nutrition education programs for child nutrition personnel, nutrition education specialists, and teachers.

PURPOSE

The Nutrition Services Division and its educational partners seek to (1) increase the professionalism of the child nutrition profession to better serve California's children; (2) promote nutrition education in the classroom and the cafeteria; and (3) meet federal and state mandates. The contracts described in this document will assist in addressing these areas and help promote healthier meals and nutrition education for children and youth.

1. CAL-PRO-NET Centers

In 1992, the Nutrition Services Division established three California Professional Nutrition Education and Training (CAL-PRO-NET) Centers throughout the State to assist in achieving the goals listed above. One of the centers, Fresno City College, State Center Community College District has been establishing professional college-level courses for child nutrition production-level personnel and site-managers for the past ten years. Fresno City College has also secured a network of community colleges throughout the State to assist in meeting the needs of the largest segment of child nutrition trainees. The community colleges provide instruction using scientifically based, pilot-tested nutrition and management-based curricula. The Fresno center also provides School Meals Initiative training on Food Based Menu Planning and Nutrient Standard Menu Planning for child nutrition personnel throughout the State.

In 1994, the United States Congress passed the Healthy Americans Act, which requires all child nutrition program meals to meet established nutrition standards. In response to the federal mandate, the United States Department of Agriculture enacted the School Meals Initiative (SMI) for Healthy Children. These published regulations prescribed menu-planning options that all National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program sponsors must use to meet the nutrition standards. The California Department of Education and the CAL-PRO-NET Centers have developed courses to assist agencies in the implementation of these menu-planning standards. This training helps ensure that California will have child nutrition professionals who can offer safe, healthy, and well-prepared meals for children.

In recent evaluations, all levels of staff have voiced the need for access to local level college training. They have requested instruction on food preparation of healthy, low-fat meals; food safety; fiscal management; and menu planning. In an effort to meet the needs of child nutrition program staff during 2003-2004, Fresno City College and its network of community colleges will provide courses in these topic areas.

The San Jose State University provides on-going management training for new child nutrition directors. Lack of training for new child nutrition program directors can result in fiscal sanctions for districts during the federally mandated administrative reviews that are conducted by CDE. This center is also developing a recruitment system by promoting the child nutrition profession among the high school and community college students in an attempt to address the increasing child nutrition personnel attrition rates. In addition, the San Jose State Center provides nutrition education specialists and classroom teachers with the information and skills to effectively teach nutrition in the classroom. This will be part of the statewide effort to combat the increasing number of overweight children in California schools.

Cal Poly Pomona includes instructors from both their hospitality and nutrition departments to provide training for established child nutrition program directors. The focus of this CAL-PRO-NET center is to develop leadership skills and management systems for the administrator of nutrition programs.