

GRANT COUNTY

Resolution No. 2012-04

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STATE OF NEW MEXICO LEGISLATION, “COMMODITY DELIVERY”, INVESTING IN THE DELIVERY OF SCHOOL FOODS TO ALLEVIATE THE COST BURDEN ON SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM BUDGETS

WHEREAS, the County of Grant recognizes that state funding for commodity (United State Department of Agriculture donated foods) delivery through the New Mexico School Nutrition Bureau was omitted from the State budget in 2008 and as a result, school districts in Grant County must pay for commodity delivery out of school nutrition program budgets, and;

WHEREAS, federal commodity entitlement funds allocated to schools cannot be used to pay for transportation—all funds must go to food costs, and;

WHEREAS, the increasing costs of fuel due to our geographic location is taking away student nutrition program funds for fresh fruit and vegetable purchases, and

WHEREAS, the County of Grant acknowledges a high percentage of students (75% in New Mexico in 2011) qualify for free and reduced-meal prices and many of these low-income students depend on school meals to meet most of their daily nutritional needs, and;

WHEREAS, improved nutrition will help combat the epidemic of childhood obesity and other diet-related diseases in Grant County, and;

WHEREAS, health studies indicate that there is direct correlation between adequate nutrition and a child's development and school performance.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Grant County Board of Commissioners supports State of New Mexico Legislation, "Commodity Delivery", investing \$600,000 in the delivery of school foods through New Mexico's Food and Nutrition Bureau to decrease the burden on school nutrition programs.

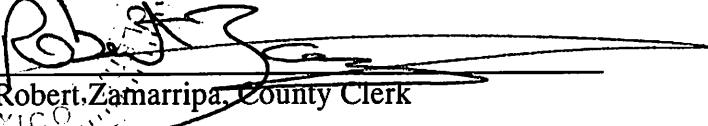
PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 12th DAY OF January 2012.

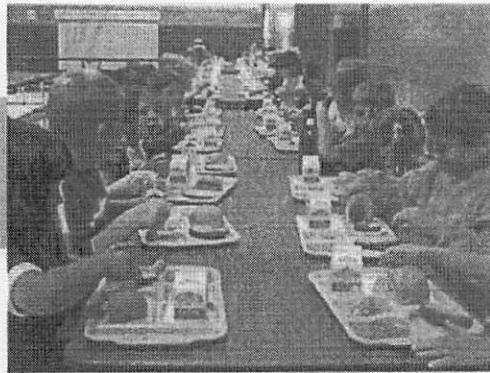
GRANT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Brett Kasten
Brett Kasten, Chair

Gabriel Ramos
Gabriel Ramos, Member

Christy Miller
Christy Miller, Member

GRANT COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
ATTEST:

Robert Zamarripa, County Clerk



Commodity Delivery

2012 Legislative Sponsor: _____, \$600,000

With increased fuel costs, an investment in the delivery of school foods through New Mexico's Food & Nutrition Bureau is necessary to ensure school nutrition programs are not further burdened with these costs.

Challenges:

- In 2008 state funding for commodity (USDA donated foods) delivery through the School Nutrition Bureau was omitted from the state budget, thus putting the cost of commodity delivery on the individual school districts.
- Schools in rural communities carry a larger burden of the commodity delivery cost due to distance.
- A high percentage of the students in these rural school districts are food insecure. This means their school lunch is the main meal of their day.
- Currently the cost of transporting commodities is paid out of the same funds used to buy fruits and vegetables for student's meals.

The Solution:

A nominal State investment of 1.5 cents per meal served, or \$600,000, would ensure that funds will be available to put food on students' plates.

*1.6 million + for total distribution
costs to run commodity program
to schools.*

Important Facts:

- Student Nutrition Programs budgets operate separately from the school district operational budgets.
 - New Mexico does not provide direct funding for Student Nutrition Programs.
- Federal commodity entitlement funds allocated to schools cannot be used to pay for transportation –all funds must go to food costs.
- Currently the cost of transporting commodities is paid out of the same funds used to buy fruits and vegetables for student's meals.
- New Mexico ranks 13th in food insecurity and –5th in poverty—in the U.S.
- 75% of New Mexico's students qualify for free and reduced-price meals.
 - This means that 221,000 lower-income children in New Mexico depend on school meals for meeting most of their daily nutritional needs.
 - Delivery of these school foods is imperative to the food security of New Mexico's children.