
San Francisco Chronicle

Letter to the Editor on School Lunches

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Editor –

Bravo to Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin for taking on school vending machines (" 'A la carte' school lunches under fire," March 5). One statement in this otherwise fine article needs clarification. The San Francisco Board of Education is described as having voted to eliminate the sale of soda and unhealthy snacks next year, "despite the fact that the move could leave the food nutrition program \$500,000 in the red." In fact, the only way the school nutrition program could suffer such a loss is if the revenue from sale of junk food were not replaced by revenue from the sale of healthier choices.

At Aptos Middle School, a pilot program has eliminated the sale of soda, chips and other unhealthy foods, replacing them with 100 percent fruit juice, water, sushi, deli sandwiches, fruit cups and other delicious options. After just one month, sales were higher than before the ban on junk food. There is no reason why such a program could not be implemented in all SFUSD schools, resulting in healthier kids and a solid bottom line for the Student Nutrition Office.

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