

School Food FOCUS
Transforming Food Options for Children in Urban Schools

Issue #1
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Let us begin. As we move forward together, weekly communications seem to be a good touchstone and so we are pleased to name this communication, *Week in FOCUS*.

Our intention is to provide you with a picture of what is taking place inside *School Food FOCUS* as we begin to build it. Since you are so crucial in developing this initiative, over time this will include your voices as well. For now, we will include one or two important things that have either recently taken place in relation to our common work or are coming up soon. If you have others to add or share, please do.

- 1) Many who participated in the 2007 School Meals Institutes are participating in the School Nutrition Association (SNA) Annual Conference this week in Philadelphia. On Tuesday, Toni Liquori met with a small group of them to re-connect, welcome new faces and talk about some of the early-on plans taking shape in *School Food FOCUS*. The group included the following school districts and organizations:

- School districts:
 - Boston
 - Chicago
 - Denver
 - Miami
 - New York City
 - Philadelphia
 - Seattle
 - St. Paul
- Organizations:
 - Alliance for a Healthier Generation
 - Farm To School Network (F2S)
 - Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)
 - Liquori and Associates

- 2) As you know, the Institute of Medicine is holding Information Gathering Sessions across the country as part of their work to review the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns and Nutrient Standards. The Committee responsible for this recently conducted a session in Washington, DC (June 9-11). Check the following link, www.iom.edu/CMS/3788/54064/55155.aspx, to see/read all the presentations made and get some of the background information. Notice that a couple presentations in particular are connected to *School Food FOCUS* in one way or another:

- Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) – Hunger and Obesity
- School Nutrition Association
- New York City – Urban Experience of the School Food Plus Initiative