

## **OPPOSITION LETTER TO APPROVE REVISIONS TO REGULATION A-812 READ TO THE PANEL FOR EDUCATIONAL POLICY FEB. 24, 2010.**

My name is Elizabeth Puccini. I speak for every parent I know and many many more in strongly opposing the revisions to Chancellor's Regulation A-812 and strongly urge the Panel to vote no on the proposed revisions.

As currently proposed, the new regulation would prohibit home-baked goods from being sold at school fundraisers between the hours of 8a.m.-6p.m., with the exception of a monthly PA/PTA fundraiser. I understand that the stated purpose of the revisions is to control the calories, saturated fats and sodium contained in the foods sold at fundraisers. But the idea that the DOE can control the calories a child consumes at a fundraising event is specious at best. What's to prevent a child from buying 2 or 3 bags of the permitted Doritos or Frito Lay Chips? As much as the DOE might like to control what our children eat, it's impossible to regulate how much they eat unless a monitor is stationed at every school fundraising event.

In addition, how can the DOE possibly suggest that processed foods containing additives and artificial preservatives are healthier for our children than home-baked muffins, breads or organic popcorn? I can appreciate the DOE wanting to regulate "bought" foods that are sold at fundraisers, but the DOE has no right or authority telling parents that the food we cook for our children is unacceptable. The Regulation prohibiting home-baked goods and permitting certain processed foods seems to me and many other parents a blatant attempt by food companies such as Pepsi Cola and Kellogg's to reap enormous profits at the expense of our children.

I also oppose the revisions to Regulation A-812, because parents have not been given ample time to become informed and respond, nor were they engaged in the decision making process in an issue as intimate as the food we feed our children. The PTA presidents of District One schools learned about the revisions less than 4 weeks ago. I'm not aware that any public forum has been held to allow parents to voice their opposition directly to School Foods and the DOE. Should these revisions pass and be enforced, I believe the Chancellor and DOE will incur the outrage of many parents and find few willing to comply. Just read the comments to the NY Times City Blog article about the Regulation that was posted yesterday.

If, Chancellor Klein, you are so concerned about our children's health, than I recommend that you get rid of the corn syrup that is in the bread, peanut butter, and milk that are presently being served in our public schools. Those

foods, containing dextrose and high fructose corn syrup, are the contributors to childhood obesity and diabetes not home-baked food prepared with love by parents.