



Letter From Dorothy - Fall 2008
RINR piloted in 12 districts, new Healthy Fundraising workshop from Kids First

Hello Everyone,

The school year opened with many exciting projects that further improve the school nutrition environments for the students and staff of our schools.

This year, 12 RI school districts (1/3) are implementing improved nutrition criteria for school breakfast and lunches, entitled RI Nutrition Requirements 2009 (RINR 2009). Most of the remaining 2/3 of the RI school districts will be either piloting or fully implementing RINR 2009 before the year is out. This means that students across the state will be offered more and a wider variety of fruits, vegetables and whole grains everyday in school.

Also this year, ALL RI schools should be fully implementing the "RI Healthier Beverages and Snacks in Schools Law" (<http://thriveri.org/moreinfo/legislation.html#lawsnut>) and Kids First is ready to assist however you would like us to. The Approved Product List for Beverages & Snacks is updated monthly on this website.

Parents and other school groups will have access to a new "Healthy Fundraising" workshop currently in development at Kids First and Superintendents will continue to be able to schedule the popular and successful Superintendent's Wellness Workshop, developed in partnership with RISSA, for their leadership teams.

The RI Farm to School Project at Kids First will continue to GROW until all 36 RI school districts are purchasing at least one fresh fruit or vegetable from a RI farmer and many RI schools will make regular purchases of a wider variety of items from RI farmers, including Rhody Fresh milk. This year, RI schools will have access to the USDA Free Fruit and Vegetable Program which provides free fruits and vegetables, locally grown whenever possible, to students during the school day.

The Healthy Schools Coalition Annual Breakfast for School Leaders in September was a GREAT success and I invite all of you to visit the Healthy Schools Coalition (HSC) tab on this website to learn more about HSC goals.

We invite every RI citizen to join us in our pursuit of more nutritious school environments. Let's all keep working together to improve the health and wellbeing of RI's children. We CAN make a difference for THEM.

Dorothy Brayley
Executive Director