



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

COUNTY AND SCHOOLS MEET TO COMBAT CHILDHOOD OBESITY

School Food Summit Focuses on Better School Nutrition Policies for Students

- WHO:** Pam Slater-Price, District 3, Chairwoman, San Diego County Board of Supervisors
Nick Macchione, Deputy Director, Health and Human Services Agency
Dr. Rudy Castruita, San Diego County Superintendent of Schools
Terri Soares, Commissioner, State Superintendent's Task Force on Childhood Obesity
200 school leaders, including school board members, superintendents, principals, food service directors and school health professionals
- WHAT:** The *School Food Summit: Improving Student Nutrition in San Diego County* brings together education leaders and health and nutrition experts to address childhood obesity, which has become a national public health crisis. The summit will feature speakers, strategy sessions, and a school "healthy practices" showcase, to assist schools to develop strategies for practical and effective school nutrition programs.
- This event is hosted by the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency's [HealthLink North County](#) Program, the [Coalition on Children and Weight](#), and County Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price, who highlighted childhood obesity as one of her health care priorities in her recent State of the County address. Sponsors include Chairwoman Slater-Price, the County Health and Human Services Agency, Palomar Pomerado Health, Buena Vista Foods, Health Net, Hollandia Dairy, Maisano Produce Distributors and Super Snax.
- WHEN:** 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 9, 2005
- WHERE:** The Rancho Bernardo Inn
17550 Bernardo Oaks Drive, San Diego 92128
- WHY:** Childhood obesity has become a major health concern in San Diego County, and throughout the nation. In this county an astonishing 17-36% of students are overweight and 24-48% are unfit, according to the 2001 California Department of Education fitness test results for fifth, seventh and ninth grade public school children. Experts agree that improving nutrition and physical activity can greatly impact these outcomes. This summit focuses on the nutrition aspect by encouraging schools to implement policies and action plans for healthier campuses.

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