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Re: Nutrition Guidelines at City- Authorized Charter Schools

May 12, 2017

Dear Steering and Rules Committee,

On behalf of the Charter School Review Committee (CSRC), this letter is to explain why the proposed substitution resolution which directs the Charter School Review Committee to study the feasibility, cost and effectiveness of developing and implementing nutrition and meal service guidelines for City-authorized charter schools so as to reduce the risk of lead absorption for children attending City-authorized charter schools may be unnecessary.

Currently most of the City-authorized schools participate in the federal meal programs mentioned in the proposed resolution when applicable. These programs have very specific and comprehensive guidelines for meal nutritional content, preparation, etc. Much of what this proposed substitution resolution covers or is trying to achieve is already covered under the USDA -National Breakfast/Lunch Program meal program guidelines. At least every two years City-authorized schools, as well as food vendors are audited by the national program. This audit looks at each school's menus, wellness plans, kitchen facilities, and observes point of service for all breakfast/lunch periods. The City Health Department inspects kitchen facilities twice a year, as well as monitors the vendor's kitchen and all food records.

Additionally, the recent resolution that require annual lead testing of all faucets used in food preparation, all drinking fountains at City-chartered schools, and outside food vendors, already provide the necessary monitoring that help reduce lead absorption.

The CSRC understands the importance of ensuring that all children who attend City-authorized schools are offered safe and nutritious meals, however the City Health Department, Water Works Department, and DPI already monitor the aforementioned programs.

Respectfully Submitted

*Kevin Ingram*

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Charter School Review Committee