

School Nutrition Study Initiated

What's happening in nutrition education in the nation's school systems? To help find out, the Education

Commission of the States has been awarded a \$48,594 contract by the U. S. Department of

Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). In providing leadership for child nutrition programs,

FNS would like to develop a constructive role of supporting state and local school officials in telling students

about good nutrition and improving their eating habits. A necessary step is to find out what's going on in

nutrition education federally, on the state level, and in local school districts.

During the next year, she Commission will gather data from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare's Office of Education, the education agencies of every state and the District of Columbia, and a representative sample of local school districts across the country. Then the Commission will analyze the elements of nutrition education on all three levels, examining legislation, grants, contracts, projects, and school activities.

The survey will look at what is being taught and how, who is being taught, who is doing the teaching, how nutrition information is being delivered at different grade levels and in different schools, and what importance is assigned nutrition education in relation to other health-oriented education programs and to the total curriculum.

The Commission will present its findings next July.

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Early Plant Exploring

The first recorded plant exploration was the expedition sent by Egypt's Queen Hatshepsut to the Land of Punt for the incense tree in 1500 B.C. Today, USDA explorers search for a wide variety of plants to help improve food and fiber crops.

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