

**From:** Labour Party Press Office <press@labour.org.uk>

**Subject: RE: School Food Standards**

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**Exclusive message from Tristram Hunt, Labour's Shadow Education Secretary, for School Food Matters:**

"Removing barriers to learning is key to ensuring that every child is given the best start in life. That means every child, in every school, should have access to high quality, nutritious food. It makes no sense to have nutritional standards and for them not to apply to all schools. So Labour will show we are serious about this by making school food standards mandatory in all schools."

**Labour's Statement:**

The UK continues to have a real problem with childhood obesity, with almost a quarter of children being overweight by the time they start primary school and 18 per cent of 11 year olds being obese. Healthy school lunches must be part of how we tackle this problem and there is also evidence that a healthy diet can help young people and children to concentrate at school.

The last Labour Government set minimum nutritional standards in school food, and banned fizzy drinks, chocolate and crisps from vending machines and tuck shops in schools. Labour believes these standards should be applied in all schools, but the Tory-led Government have repeatedly refused to make all Free Schools and academies abide by these rules.

Labour will require all state-funded schools to follow the same standards for healthy food, and take action to help give all children a good start in life by tackling the barriers to a healthy diet. We will set limits on the amount of sugar, fat and salt in food marketed substantially to children – for example cereals, crisps and soft drinks – and give local authorities new powers to limit the number of fast food outlets on their streets.

Alongside this, we will reinstate the goal of all children doing a minimum of two hours PE a week as part of the curriculum, and support the delivery of high-quality sport, PE and physical activity after school, so that every student will have the opportunity to do at least three further hours.