



ÓAÊ

observatório da
alimentação
escolar

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**INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION
FOR THE RIGHT
TO SCHOOL MEALS**

*A contribution from
Brazilian civil society*

ÓAÊ observatório da alimentação escolar

ÓAÊ (Scholl Meal Watch) aims to amplify the voices of students, family farmers and school feeding professionals, to collectively advocate for the Pnae and raise awareness in society about the importance of providing adequate food in schools.

It carries out campaigns and surveys, monitors the implementation of the Pnae, organizes and produces data and analysis that subsidize communication and advocacy strategies.



INCORPORATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD AND NUTRITION INTO PNAE DESIGN and LAW

- ✓ Influenced by food and security national law (losan)



- universal access for all students in public schools, without any form of discrimination
- provision of meals throughout the entire school year on a regular and continuous basis
- menus based on fresh or minimally processed foods, with restrictions on the supply of ultra-processed products
- the supply of diverse and safe food, giving priority to organic and agroecological production methods
- respect for local culture, traditions and eating habits
- the accommodation of special dietary needs and specific health conditions (such as students with diabetes, hypertension or celiac disease, among others)
- the democratization of public procurement through the mandatory purchase of foods produced locally by family farmers

BASED ON THE FOOD GUIDE FOR THE BRAZILIAN POPULATION



The *Food Guide for the Brazilian Population* affirms that **fresh or minimally processed foods, prepared using traditional cooking methods, should always be favored over ultra-processed foods.** The four recommendations are:

- make fresh or minimally processed foods the basis of your diet;
- add oils, fats, salt and sugar in small amounts when seasoning and cooking food and dishes using traditional cooking methods;
- limit the use of processed foods, consuming them in small amounts as cooking ingredients or as part of meals favouring fresh or minimally processed food;
- avoid ultra-processed food.

MAIN GUIDELINES OF FNDE RESOLUTION Nº 06

PRIORITIZING FRESH AND MINIMALLY PROCESSED FOOD



- A minimum of 80% of funds transferred by FNDE for the purchase of this category of food



REDUCING PROCESSED FOOD AND ULTRA-PROCESSED PRODUCTS

- A limit of 15% of funds transferred by the FNDE for the purchase of processed and ultra-processed foods
- A maximum of 5% for processed cooking ingredients
- Limitations on the offering of meat products, canned foods, dairy liquids with additives or sweeteners, cookies, crackers, bread or cake, sweets, margarine or vegetable cream

PROHIBITING ULTRA-PROCESSED FOOD FROM MENUS

- No ultra-processed meat, sweets, gummies, crisps, soft drinks, and other products with low nutritional value
- Prohibition on offering industrial trans fats



PROHIBITING CERTAIN FOOD FOR CHILDREN UNDER 3 YEARS OLD

- No UPPs should be given to this age group
- No sugar, honey or sweeteners should be offered for children of this age group

**BASED ON FAMILY
FARMING NATIONAL
POLICIES AND
INSTRUMENTS**



NATIONAL REGISTRY OF FAMILY FARMING (CAF)

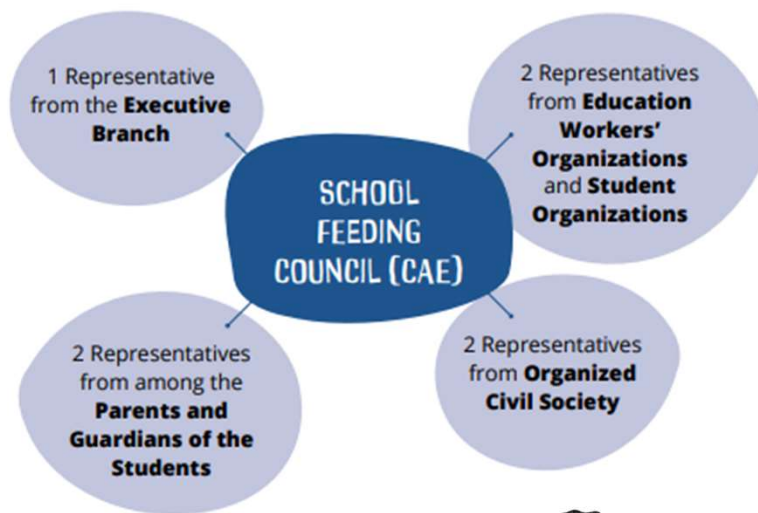
The CAF (Cadastro Nacional da Agricultura Familiar – National Registry of Family Farming) is the main instrument for identifying and formalizing family farmers. It is a national database that gathers information about family farming production units and their members. Registration with the CAF is a prerequisite for family farmers to access public policies, including credit, agricultural insurance and technical assistance and rural extension services, as well as programs such as the National School Feeding Program (Pnae) and the Food Acquisition Program (PAA). The CAF is issued by entities accredited by the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Family Farming (MDA).

**PUBLIC PROCUREMENT
FROM FAMILY
FARMING**



PARTICIPATION, MONITORING AND SOCIAL CONTROL OF SCHOOL MEALS

COMPOSITION OF THE CAE



WATCH OUT!

Without monitoring and social participation, the Pnae cannot be effectively implemented.

The Pnae's trajectory, from 1950 to the present day, is the result of many struggles, mistakes, successes and the constant vigilance of civil society. There are still many challenges ahead in order to ensure the program truly meets the needs and specificities of all Basic Education students, respecting the guidelines established in its legal and institutional frameworks.

Despite how much the Pnae has progressed, there remains, for many municipalities and schools, a significant gap between what the program's regulations establish and the reality of its implementation. Therefore, continuous engagement from civil society is essential. On the one hand, this engagement keeps the issue of the right to adequate school feeding on the political agenda. On the other, it exposes conflicts of interest and violations of the program, aiming to prevent setbacks and to pressure for effective enforcement of Pnae guidelines in all schools.

CAE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Monitor and supervise compliance with Pnae guidelines
- Monitor and supervise the application of financial resources
- Ensure food quality
- Analyze the accountability of the executing entity
- Report irregularities
- Prepare the internal regulations and the annual action plan of the council



PNAE FINANCING AND BUDGET

CALCULATION OF THE FEDERAL AMOUNT TRANSFERRED TO IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES


Annual Transfer

=


Number of Students

×


Number of School Days

×


Per Capita Amount per Student*

* According to the level and type of education, as shown in the table below.

PER CAPITA VALUE PER SCHOOL DAY (2024)

Teaching Stages and Modalities	Value in BRL	Value in USD*
Daycare Centers	1,37	0.25
Pre-schools	0,72	0.13
Indigenous and <i>quilombola</i> Schools	0,86	0.16
Elementary and High School	0,50	0.10
Full-time Education	1,37	0.25
Full-time High Schools	2,56	0.47
Specialized Educational Support and Extracurricular Activities	0,68	0.13
Youth and Adult Education	0,41	0.08



Readjust Pnae Campaign - proposes the creation of a legal mechanism to ensure annual financial adjustments to Pnae’s budget, correcting inflation losses and ensuring greater budgetary predictability for food purchase

CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND CORPORATE CAPTURE

- breast milk substitutes and related products targeted at children under 3 years of age
- ultra-processed foods and beverages
- alcoholic beverages
- pharmaceuticals used for the prevention and treatment of diet and nutrition-related diseases
- synthetic agrochemicals
- genetic manipulation or patent ownership of genetically modified seeds
- large-scale food retail trade

WATCH OUT!



In many countries, school feeding programs are established by foundations and international cooperation agencies. **However, many of these institutions are not free from conflicts of interest.** Dependence on external funding from corporate philanthropy or from cooperation tied to the commercial interests of donor countries can create loopholes that allow private interests to override the public interest in ensuring adequate diets. This is particularly concerning in national contexts where there are no regulations to guide food policies, leaving students exposed to interests that are not aligned with public health.

It is important to be vigilant regarding initiatives that aim, for example, to introduce fortified ultra-processed products or to encourage farmers to use patented biofortified seeds. Such actions may be strategies to strengthen corporate brands and products in new markets.

IDENTIFYING AND PREVENTING CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAMS



GOOD PRACTICES

Regulation on the Identification and Prevention of Conflicts of Interest in the Implementation of the Pnae

In 2023, the National Fund for Education Development (FNDE) published a technical note on conflicts of interest within the Pnae, aimed at guiding the school community in identifying such threats. This regulation is extremely important to strengthen efforts to counter the interference of the ultra-processed food industry in public schools across the country. It includes two very useful tools:

- a decision tree for characterizing external actors
- a questionnaire to identify and prevent situations that may involve conflicts of interest, based on the tool developed by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).



ADVERTISING

Posters, flyers, banners and other visual aids.



SPONSORSHIP

Financial resources for holding events or activities, such as competitions, olympics, cultural activities.

Provision of equipment and promotional materials to foment the sale of ultra-processed foods in the school cafeteria.



MERCHANDISING

Branding or messaging from manufacturers on items of interest to students, such as uniforms, notebooks and other school materials.

Disguised collaborations through pedagogical and/or social projects aimed at gaining the support and partnership of school principals and teachers.



PROMOTIONS AND DONATIONS

Actions that encourage the purchase of a specific product in exchange for gifts and participation in raffles.

Donation of free samples of ultra-processed products to students and school professionals

HUNGER INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

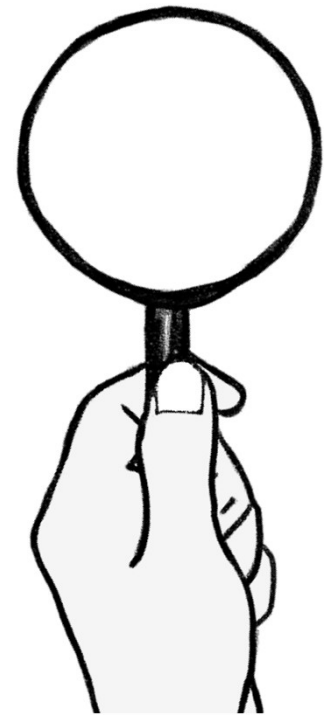
FALSE SOLUTIONS TO DISTRIBUTE FALSE FOODS



- driven by large corporate investments in food banks, through which companies donate primarily processed and ultra-processed products that are close to their expiration dates to be distributed to populations experiencing food insecurity. In doing so, they simultaneously promote their brands and mask the problems of overproduction and waste generated by its dysfunctional agro-industrial models.
- Companies may also receive tax exemptions, turning into profit products that could no longer be sold on the market.
- Subsidies compromise budget for food policies and these “donations” can even reach schools!

LESSONS LEARNED

- IT TAKES A LONG TRAJECTORY TO MAKE A UNIVERSAL SCHOOL MEALS POLICY TO FUNCTION
- FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT TO ADEQUATE AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD LEGAL FRAMEWORK AS A STRONG BASE
- INTERSTORIAL AND PARTICIPATORY PROCESS ARE FUNDAMENTAL FOR POLICY ELABORATION AND SUCCESS – CIVIL SOCIETY MUST BE ORGANIZED, COMPLEMENTARY POLICIES MUST EXIST
- PUBLIC BUDGET – INVESTMENT NOT EXPENDITURE
- ATTENTION TO CORPORATE CAPTURE AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST – WHO IS FUNDING THE POLICY, WHAT ARE THE INTERESTS BEHIND?
- PROTECT SCHOOLS OF ULTRAPROCESSED FOODS AND BIOFORTIFIED FOODS AND SEEDS – INFLUENCING FOOD HABITS AND PRODUCTION AND CREATING MARKET FOR MULTINATIONALS





DIGITAL PUBLICATION

<https://alimentacaoescolar.org.br/english/>



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