

PROPOSED STANDARDS, EVALUATION TOPICS, CRITERIA, AND AN ASSESSMENT
TOOL FOR SCHOOL FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS

by

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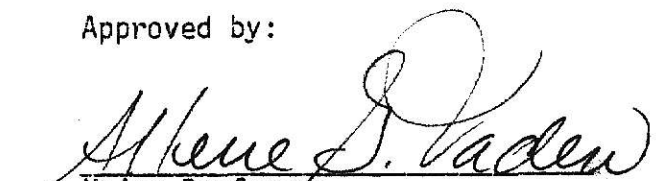
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INTRODUCTION

The major objectives of the child nutrition programs have been to safeguard the health of the nation's children and to increase consumption of surplus agricultural commodities and other foods (1). Services of the child nutrition programs have gradually expanded from the mere service of food for school children to a sophisticated system of providing quality meals, developing nutrition education programs, stimulating student participation and satisfaction, maintaining employee satisfaction, and maintaining financial accountability.

Problems in school foodservices have raised questions challenging whether the objectives of the child nutrition programs are being met (2-4). Well defined standards for school foodservices are necessary for effective evaluations. All groups who evaluate the child nutrition programs may be correct in their assessment based on their own views of standards for the program objectives. With the increase of services being provided by the child nutrition programs, a set of standards are needed to make assessments on levels of performance for program objectives.

The systems concept has been used as a means of viewing an organization as a totality and assisting in decision making (5). The systems concept can be adapted to the school foodservice organization and used as an aid in developing standards for the major areas of the school food and nutrition system.

The review of literature includes discussions on the development of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and other Child Nutrition