

## **Act 1220 of 2003**

On March 8, 2002, 100 leaders in the areas of healthcare, education, business, policy and media gathered at the state's first Arkansas Preventative, Nutritional and Physical Activity Summit to identify strategies for addressing the state's obesity epidemic. In fall 2002, the Arkansas Department of Health established an interdisciplinary committee to develop Obesity Legislation to present at the 84<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 2003. The resulting legislation – Act 1220 – was passed and signed into law.

Major initiatives mandated by the Act include:

- Removing vending machines offering food and beverages from public elementary schools;
- Creating a Child Health Advisory Committee to develop nutrition and physical activity standards and policy recommendations;
- Creating a School Nutrition and Physical Activity Advisory Committee in each school district composed of members of the school district governing board, school administrators, food service personnel, teacher organizations, parents, students and professional groups;
- Requiring schools to include as part of the annual report to parents and the community the amounts and sources of funds received from competitive food and beverage contracts;
- Requiring schools to include a new annual student health screening for obesity and report the results to parents or guardians with an explanation of the possible health effects of BMI, nutrition and physical activity.