

Association of Teachers and Lecturers Press Release

Press Office: 7 Northumberland Street, London
WC2N 5RD
Direct Line: (020) 7782 1589 Fax: (020) 7925 0529
Mobile: 07974 423 998

E-mail: newsdesk@atl.org.uk Website:
www.atl.org.uk



Thursday 10 February 2005

FOR EDUCATION CORRESPONDENTS/ NEWS

Initiative to promote healthy school meals must be fully financed - ATL

Commenting on the announcement that the education secretary, Ruth Kelly, will introduce new guidelines on the nutritional value of processed foods into schools in England from September, Dr Mary Bousted, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL) said:

"The problem of childhood obesity in this country is fully recognised. Schools should be a place where young people can eat healthily, but this isn't easy for those that are cash strapped.

"Schools' restricted spending, per pupil per meal, contrasts poorly with countries such as France, where the cost per meal is much higher. We can't just exhort schools to provide healthy lunches, this initiative has to be fully financed as well.

"ATL's concern over this issue will be highlighted in a resolution to our annual conference next month."