

Dear Authorized Representative/Food Service Director:

Please review the attachments and take the necessary action. The attached document that is identified as SP XX-2012 is a USDA memo that provides an update on regulations and must be reviewed to ensure you are operating according to regulations. This information is emailed to the Authorized Representative and Food Service Director for your School Food Authority (SFA). The Bureau of Nutrition, Health and Transportation Services new facsimile number is 515-242-5988.

Training for Nutrition Standards

The Bureau's plan to provide training about the nutrition standards final rule which includes the new menu patterns incorporates a variety of methods. . The standards go into effect July 1, 2012. Plan to start your involvement in training by the end of March. Attached is a document that describes the training opportunities. Plan to attend the Adobe Connect Webinar Meeting on **Thursday, March 15, 2012, 1:30-3:30 PM - Changes in the School Meal Patterns—Moving Forward Together!**

To join the meeting click on this link:

<http://iowa.adobeconnect.com/csmp3-15/>

If you have never attended an Adobe Connect meeting before:

Test your connection:

http://iowa.adobeconnect.com/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm

Get a quick overview: http://www.adobe.com/go/connectpro_overview

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Paid Lunch Equity for 2012-2013

Attached is information on the Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) for 2012-2013. USDA **has not released** the PLE tool for LEAs to use in calculating prices for 2012-2013. Please review closely the attachment SP 39 2012 Revised 10-124-2011 Guidance on Paid Lunch Equity and Revenue from Nonprogram Foods for more guidance on making PLE calculations when completing the USDA PLE tool for 2012-2013..

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Medical Statement for School Programs

The Medical Statement for School Programs form attached is not mandatory but you may find it helpful in getting complete and consistent information for students. If you use it please customize the areas identified by the red text. You may use other forms but the following information must be included for those conditions which are considered a disability or a medical condition:

- 1) The impairment/diagnosis that is a disability or special dietary condition including intolerances and allergies
- 2) The major life activity affected, (for disabilities)
- 3) Why it alters the student's diet: (for disabilities)
- 4) What diet modifications are needed? (e.g., texture changes and/or food item substitutions)
- 5) Any foods to be omitted
- 6) Identify foods to be substituted/added

On the bottom of the back page is the area where parents may request a substitute for fluid milk for any reasonable request such as vegan diet, religious, cultural or ethical reasons. If the district chooses to provide a substitute, the district identifies the product however it must meet the nutrition standards outlined in USDA FNS Policy memo SP07-2010. Water or juice is not an acceptable substitute. Here is the link to the memo which contains many Q&As. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/policy2006-2010.htm>

Sincerely,
Patti Harding, Administrative Consultant