

February 13, 2015: Monthly Memos and Updates - Schools

Dear Authorized Representative/Food Service Director: This information was emailed to the Authorized Representative and the Food Service Director. If you desire additional staff members to receive the monthly emails please send me their contact information and I will add them to the distribution list. Sincerely, Patti Harding, Administrative Consultant

Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) FY16 – SP03-2015 and SP19-2015

School Program regulations require school food authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program to ensure sufficient funds are provided to the nonprofit school food service account for meals served to students not eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

The FY16 Paid Lunch Equity Tool and USDA guidance are posted on the Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services web page under Monthly Memo and Updates Schools. As a reminder, in Iowa public SFAs are not allowed to transfer funds from the general fund to the School Nutrition Fund to support maintaining a “lower” paid student meal cost nor is it allowable to use state reimbursement received for meals served as a non-federal source of funds. It is recommended that the SFA take action on this early in the year so the new paid meal price(s) may be approved locally and included with FY16 program information.

The availability of an exemption to the Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) requirement for certain School Food Authorities (SFAs) in strong financial standing is available again in FY16. If you meet the criteria below and are interested in a FY16 PLE Tool Exemption contact Patti Harding, Administrative Consultant at patti.harding@iowa.gov

6¢ Meal Certification

Exceed 3-months operating balance
OR

Exceeds 2-Months operating balance and expects to exceed 3 –months operating balance by June 30 or with the projected FY16 Paid Lunch Equity Tool price increase.

Use the most recent Program Year (FY14) to calculate the number of months operating balance your SFA had. Follow the steps below.

Step 1.

Cash + Investments + Receivables – Payables = Net Cash Resources (Operating Balance)

Step 2.

Total Expenses ÷ 9 = Average Expenses Per Month

Step 3.

Net Cash Resources (Operating Balance) ÷ Average Expenses Per Month =
Number of months Operating Balance

Adult Meal Price FY16

For FY16, the adult meal price must be at least \$3.34. FY16 SFA applications will not be approved until the adult meal price is at least \$3.34. Please take the necessary action now to ensure compliance.

Smoothies Offered in Child Nutrition Programs- SP10-2014V.2

As fruit, vegetable, milk, and yogurt, smoothies are an increasingly common food item in the Child Nutrition Programs (CNP), the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has modified the guidance on smoothies to allow for the crediting of vegetables and yogurt including smoothies with yogurt at lunch. Review the USDA memo posted on the Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services web page under Monthly Memo and Updates Schools

hawk-i/Medicaid Program - Sharing of Household Information - Submission due February, 25

Public Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are required by Iowa Administrative Code to release to the Department of Human Services Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa (hawk-i/ Medicaid Program) household information for the students eligible for free or reduced price meal benefits who have expressed interest in learning about hawk-i. Non-public LEAs are encouraged but not required to release household information. Reporting the names of parents/guardians who have requested an application is done in an on-line process at <http://www.hawk-i.org/>. Instructions are located in the Form Download section of the IowaCNP system. Public LEAs with no names to report must file a report with no names. Contact Deb Linderblood at Deb.Linderblood@iowa.gov or 515-281-5663 for assistance.

Growing Farm to School in Iowa through Partnerships

You are invited to attend a Farm to School workshop taking place in three locations across the state this spring! Learn about practical examples of farm to school in action and resources tailored to help Iowans connect more students to healthy, fresh food.

Learn and network in:

- Oelwein, Thursday, March 5
- Council Bluffs, Monday, April 6
- Des Moines, Friday, May 1

[Link here for the online registration information](#)

Smart Snacks Tidbits

Q: According to the regulations, states set an appropriate number of exempt school-sponsored fundraisers that can sell foods or beverages that do not meet the nutrition standards before, during, and 30 minutes after the school day. How many fundraisers are exempt in Iowa?

A: Iowa allows for zero exemptions. Under the Iowa Healthy Kids Act, fundraisers were not allowed during the day that did not meet the Iowa Healthy Kids Act nutrition standards. To reduce confusion and send a consistent message zero exemptions remain the policy in Iowa.

Q: No more frozen pizza sales? No more cookie dough? No more Thin Mints®* cookies?

A: Sale of frozen pizza, cookie dough and other items preordered and distributed in a precooked state or in bulk quantities (multiple servings in a package) for consumption at home is not required to meet the standards. For example, boxes of preordered Girl Scout cookies intended for consumption at home would not be subject to the standards. Students could take orders and deliver them during the school day for consumption outside of school. Click here for more information.



Let's Get Physical! Engage the brain with physical activity. Learn ideas for increasing physical activity for students before, during and after school. There is a growing body of evidence indicating that physical activity and fitness benefit BOTH health and academic achievement. This webinar will give examples and ideas for promoting physical activity opportunities. Audience: PE teachers, classroom teachers, before- and after-school teachers, associates, school nurses, school administrators and others interested in school health and wellness. **Webinar February 18, 3:30-4:30pm.** [CLICK HERE to register.](#)

Fresh Conversations: Lunch, Breakfast, Smart Snacks and Wellness Policy Refresher. Need a refresher on topics related to the school nutrition program: lunch, breakfast, Smart Snacks and your Wellness Policy? This webinar is a great opportunity to refresh content, learn some fresh ideas to try at your school, and ask questions. Audience: school nutrition staff, school nurses, wellness committee members, school administrators, and others involved with school nutrition and the school wellness policy. **Webinar February 25, 2-3pm.** [CLICK HERE to register.](#) Contact Patti Delger at Patti.Delger@iowa.gov for more information.

Engaging Your Entire School in the Garden

How do schools successfully engage every student in all classrooms in school garden activities? The school garden not only shows students where their food comes from, but can provide a “hands on”, fun way for teachers to meet the Iowa Core Standards in math, science, health, etc. Iowa Team Nutrition is hosting a webinar, on **Tuesday, March 17th, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.** for Elementary Teachers, Principals, Foodservice Directors, School Nurses, FFA, etc. who are interested in learning how to fully utilize the school garden. Iowa State University Extension, FoodCorps, and Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation will share their insight and suggestions on how to make the school garden become part of the entire school learning process! Garden sub-grants will be offered through Team Nutrition. Click [here](#) to register. Contact Patti Delger at patti.delger@iowa.gov for more information.

Whole Grain-Rich Requirement Exemption Requests for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016

The USDA released a memo this week regarding the directive from Congress to allow state agencies to grant exemptions from the whole grain-rich requirements in school years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 to SFAs demonstrating hardship in procuring compliant whole grain-rich products that are acceptable to students. SFAs approved for an exemption from the current whole grain-rich requirement will have to continue, at a minimum, to meet the whole grain-rich requirement that was in effect for school year 2013-2014 (i.e., half of the grains offered were required to be whole grain-rich). The Bureau is currently working on a process to implement the provisions of this memo and will keep everyone posted with further guidance in a future email.