

April 10, 2015

Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services – Monthly Updates and Reminders

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. The Monthly Memos and Update - Schools are posted on our web page at [Schools - Monthly Memos and Updates](#).

Sincerely, Patti Harding, Administrative Consultant
Patti.harding@iowa.gov

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

Information for the Community Eligibility Provision on IowaCNP must be submitted by April 15. Participation in CEP is a local decision and one that requires careful consideration of many factors by LEAs. Because of the multiple benefits of CEP and in light of the unique decision process involved in electing CEP, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is extending the election deadline until August 31, 2015. For more information on CEP in Iowa click [Community Eligibility Provision](#).

Whole Grain-Rich Exemption

USDA allows Local Education Agencies (LEAs) the ability to request an exemption from the whole grain-rich requirement for school years (SY) 2014-2015 and 2015-2016. School Food Authorities (SFAs) must request exemptions to specific products if the SFA can demonstrate hardship(s) in procuring, preparing, or serving compliant whole grain-rich products that are acceptable to students. SFAs granted the exemption must comply with the SY 2013-2014 requirement to offer at least half of the grain items as whole grain-rich. SFAs may retain the previously approved pasta exemptions and do not need to reapply for the pasta items already approved. List each product and provide written justification or other documented evidence (e.g. photos, meal count records). LEAs must submit this form to request the exemption. An email will be returned to the Authorized Representative regarding approval or denial of the exemption. Send the Whole Grain-Rich Exemptions to Patti Harding at Patti.Harding@iowa.gov. In Subject line please put "Whole Grain-Rich Exemption Request".

Smart Snacks – USDA Updated Questions and Answers (V.3)

Attached is the third in a series of Questions and Answers related to the interim final rule titled, "National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program: Nutrition Standards for All Foods Sold in School as Required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010." This document will be updated periodically as additional questions arise during the implementation of the interim final rule (IFR) during School Year 2014-2015. Updated or new questions are noted with three asterisks (***)

Smart Snacks FAQ – Not included in USDA's updated Q & A

Q: Can schools sell water flavoring packets (i.e. Crystal Light)?

A: Yes, if *when bundled* with a bottled water, the beverage still meets requirements under the "other beverages" category it would be okay to sell water flavoring packets at the high school level. The Crystal Light packet or other water flavoring could not be sold separately since it does not meet the Smart Snacks requirements on its own.

Q: Who is responsible for assuring all food and beverage sales from vending, a la carte, school stores, and fundraisers meet the Smart Snacks nutrition standards in schools?

A: All school districts receive an Administrative Review every 3 years from the Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services. This review includes both the School Meals Programs as well as Smart Snacks compliance throughout the school building. If a school is not meeting Smart Snacks regulation, technical assistance and/or corrective

action will be given to the school. As best practice, the Foodservice Director, or school building Principal will serve as the responsible person who monitors what foods and beverages are allowed to be sold in vending machines, a la carte, school stores, or fundraising and assures that all items meet Smart Snacks standards. The print out pages showing “meets standards” of the Alliance for a Healthier Generation nutrition calculator should be on file for all foods/beverages sold in schools, and provided to the Bureau Consultant during a Nutrition review. Additional Smart Snacks FAQs and information can be found at [Smart Snacks](#) . Contact Patti Delger at Patti.Delger@iowa.gov for further assistance.

Meal Service

In general, SFAs, institutions, and organizations participating in the Child Nutrition Programs are not permitted to separate children on any protected basis during the service of Program meals or snacks, in keeping with Federal non-discrimination laws and policies as outlined by USDA. Federal law prohibits discrimination based on gender at any educational institution receiving Federal assistance. The attached USDA memo provides additional guidance on the exceptions to the Prohibition on Gender-Separated Meal Service and how to apply for an exception.

Super-Circular – 2 CFR Part 200

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published the Super-Circular at 78 FR 78590 on December 26, 2013 for USDA and other Federal grant-making agencies. USDA published such regulations at 2 CFR Parts 400, 415, 416, *et al.* (79 FR 75981, December 19, 2014). They will replace existing rules at 7 CFR Parts 3015, 3016, and 3019, 3052, and cost principles addressed in 2 Parts 220 (A-21), 225 (A-87), and 230 (A-122).

Watermark CN Label and Manufacture’s Product Formulation

The purpose of these memorandums is to clarify that a Child Nutrition (CN) Label copied with a marking referred to as a “watermark” is acceptable documentation for an Administrative Review (AR). Schools should be aware that product information on the CN label with a watermark can be changed. Therefore, schools are encouraged to verify that the CN label with a watermark came from a product that was purchased by the school and accurately reflects that product.

Paid Lunch Price Data

USDA has published the Paid lunch prices for SFAs participating in the National School Lunch Program. Click on [Paid Lunch Price Data](#) for details.

FY16 Income Guidelines

The FY16 Income Eligibility Guidelines for Free and Reduced price meals are below and located on USDA’s web page at [FY16 Income Eligibility Guidelines](#). Be sure you are using the correct income guideline category.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES [Effective from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016]											
Household size	Federal poverty guidelines	Reduced price meals—185%					Free meals—130%				
		Annual	Monthly	Twice per month	Every two weeks	Weekly	Annual	Monthly	Twice per month	Every two weeks	Weekly
1	11,770	21,775	1,815	908	838	419	15,301	1,276	638	589	295
2	15,930	29,471	2,456	1,228	1,134	567	20,709	1,726	863	797	399
3	20,090	37,167	3,098	1,549	1,430	715	26,117	2,177	1,089	1,005	503
4	24,250	44,863	3,739	1,870	1,726	863	31,525	2,628	1,314	1,213	607
5	28,410	52,559	4,380	2,190	2,022	1,011	36,933	3,078	1,539	1,421	711
6	32,570	60,255	5,022	2,511	2,318	1,159	42,341	3,529	1,765	1,629	815
7	36,730	67,951	5,663	2,832	2,614	1,307	47,749	3,980	1,990	1,837	919
8	40,890	75,647	6,304	3,152	2,910	1,455	53,157	4,430	2,215	2,045	1,023
For each additional family member add	4,160	7,696	642	321	296	148	5,408	451	226	208	104