

October 20, 2014

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 (patti.harding@iowa.gov) their contact information and I will add them to the distribution list. Sincerely, Patti Harding, Administrative Consultant.

New Location on web page:

The Monthly Memos and Update - Schools are posted on our web page at <https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/nutrition-programs/quick-links-nutrition>.

Direct Certification - List for FY15



Ames Community School District (02230000)

Direct Certification

HOME E-LOOKUP

Go

Month	SRI and Potential Student Count	E-Lookup Count	Download
07/03/2014	913	0	Download
08/05/2014	57	0	Download
08/16/2014	9	0	Download
09/03/2014	13	3	Download
09/16/2014	12	2	Download

Access to the Direct Certification (DC) list and E-Lookup is now via the Iowa Education Portal at <https://portal.ed.iowa.gov/iowalandingpage/Landing.aspx>. The date listed under “Month” is the date the list became available to the Iowa Department of Education. This is the date that may be used as the effective date the student became eligible for free meal benefits instead of the date the list was posted which is usually 5-10 days later. All processes must be uniformly applied when determining effective date of eligibility. If the SFA decides to use the date on the DC list when the student became available then when determining eligibility via a paper application the SFA needs to use the date the application was received as the effective date and not the date the application was approved. USDA memos SP 11-2014 and SP 51-2014 provides additional information are posted on the Bureau web page. Please contact Deb Linderblood at Deb.Linderblood@iowa.gov for assistance with Direct Certification issues.

Food Safety Inspection for FY15 reported on IowaCNP

The food safety/health inspections for school year 2014-2015 will be reported on IowaCNP at <https://cnp.ed.iowa.gov/CNP/Splash.aspx>. The Department of Inspection and Appeals is advising schools to send their request for the second inspection to Terri Duden at Scott.Duden@dia.iowa.gov. Instructions are attached and posted on our web page at <https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/nutrition-programs/quick-links-nutrition>. Contact your area consultant or Deb Linderblood at Deb.Linderblood@iowa.gov if you need assistance.

Verification for FY15 – Sample Selected October 1 and complete process by November 14

VERIFICATION is confirmation of eligibility for free and reduced price meals under the NSLP and SBP. Verification is only required when eligibility is determined through the application process, not through direct certification conducted with an Assistance Program or officials or agencies that documented Other Source Categorical Eligibility. **The sample size must be based on the October 1 sample pool and the SFA must complete the verification activities no later than November 14 for school year 2014-2015.** Usually the process must be completed by November 15 but since it is a Saturday USDA requires it to be completed by November 14. Verification must include either confirmation of income eligibility or confirmation that the child or any member of the household is receiving assistance under SNAP, FDPIR, or TANF or that a child is Other Source Categorically Eligible. Verification may include confirmation of any other information required on the application, such as household size. The USDA Eligibility Manual for School Meals-2014 covers the Verification process and is available on USDA's web site at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/guidance-and-resources>. Also, there is a PowerPoint from the Verification webinar Deb Linderblood presented on September 19 & 22 that is posted at <https://www.educateiowa.gov/documents/nutrition-programs/2014/09/verification-training-child-nutrition-programs-presentation>. Contact your area consultant or Deb Linderblood at Deb.Linderblood@iowa.gov.

SP 47-2014 (v2) Flexibility for Whole Grain-Rich Pasta in School Years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016

Beginning July 1, 2014, federal regulations require that all grains offered in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program must be whole grain-rich. Foods that meet the whole grain-rich criteria for the school meal programs contain at least 50 percent whole-grain meal and/or flour. The remaining 50 percent or less of grains, if any, must be enriched. Foods that are 100 percent whole grain meet the whole grain-rich criteria; however, foods are not required to be 100 percent whole grain. Foods containing between 50 and 100 percent whole grains are allowable. For additional information on whole grain-rich requirements, including how to evaluate if a grain product meets the whole grain-rich criteria, see the *Whole Grain Resource for the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs: A Guide to Meeting the Whole Grain-Rich Criteria*, available at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/WholeGrainResource.pdf>.

The flexibility requests will now be approved for two years covering school years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016. However, this flexibility is available only until acceptable products are available. To request flexibility in offering Whole Grain-Rich Pasta the SFA will complete the Flexibility for Whole Grain-Rich Pasta form attached to this email and also posted on the Bureau web page at <https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/nutrition-programs/quick-links-nutrition>. Email the completed form to Patti Harding at Patti.Harding@iowa.gov or fax (515-242-5988) – Attention: Patti Harding

SP 11-2014 Effective Date of Free and Reduced Price Meal Eligibility Determinations

This memorandum clarifies the flexibility available to local educational agency (LEA) officials for establishing the effective date of eligibility for children certified for free or reduced price meals in the National School Lunch (NSLP) and School Breakfast Programs (SBP) and free milk in the Special Milk Program (SMP) based on household applications. Please note, while this memorandum specifically discusses the NSLP, SBP and SMP, this flexibility extends to the Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Summer Food Service Program, as applicable. **REMINDER:** All students must be treated the same.

SP 51-2014 Eligibility Effective Date for Directly Certified Students

This memorandum addresses inquiries regarding flexibility in determining the effective date of eligibility for students who are directly certified to receive free meals or free milk in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the School Breakfast Program (SBP), and the Special Milk Program (SMP). The following clarifications are consistent with the flexibility provided for determining the effective date of eligibility for applications in policy memorandum SP 11-2014, *Effective Date of Free or Reduced Price Meal Eligibility Determinations* (December 3, 2013). **REMINDER:** All students must be treated the same.

SP58-2014 – 2014 Edition of Eligibility Manual for School Meals

USDA has updated the Eligibility Manual for School Meals. The new version replaces the August 2013 manual and incorporates clarifications requested by State agencies and FNS regional offices as well as applicable guidance issued since the last revision. The manual provides information on the free and reduced price application process, confidentiality and releasing of name, and verification process. Please review and use as a reference during the year. The manual is available at USDA's web site at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/guidance-and-resources>. Major changes and clarifications are highlighted throughout the manual. An un-highlighted and highlighted version of the eligibility manual will be available online. Consistent with previous years, the highlighted version will be removed after three months and the un-highlighted version will remain available for use.

Breakfast Survey for Parents

We need your help to make school breakfast at Iowa schools the best it can be! Please send the attached electronic parent letter out to your parent list serve asking them to take an online survey that will ask some questions about their child's breakfast habits and preferences. The survey results will be shared with you and will help us determine how best to increase breakfast participation.

Smart Snacks Recipe Analysis

Is your school searching for a good nutrition analysis software to determine Smart Snacks sugar content, calories, fat, sodium, etc. for foods made from scratch? Nutrikids currently does not provide data for sugar. Two new recipe analysis programs that other states have found to be helpful are *Super Tracker* (free, user friendly, designed for smaller quantities) and *Sierra Master Cook* (fee of \$19, ideal for large quantities). After analyzing a recipe, enter the nutrition facts panel into the nutrition calculator to determine if the food made from scratch meets Smart Snacks criteria. If you have a favorite recipe from scratch, that meets Smart Snacks, please send it to Patti Delger at patti.delger@iowa.gov. Sierra Master Cook is not endorsed by IDE or USDA.

New HUSSC:SL Application

The new HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchroom application and criteria are available [here](#). The application now includes Smarter Lunchroom techniques and requires a lot less menu paper work and documentation! HUSSC: SL is a voluntary program which provides financial awards to schools that choose to take steps to encourage kids to make healthy choices and be more physically active. Registered Dietitian Nutritionist coach assistance is available for schools that want to apply, through Team Nutrition. Slots are limited! Contact Patti Delger at patti.delger@iowa.gov.