



Flexibilities in the Child Nutrition Programs

School Meals & CACFP

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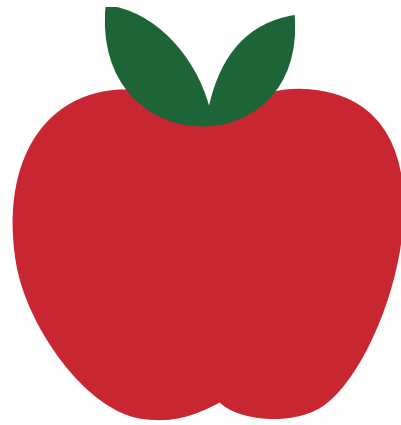
Agenda

- Background
- School Meals Flexibilities
- CACFP Flexibilities
- Q & A



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School Meals Flexibilities

School Year 2017-2018

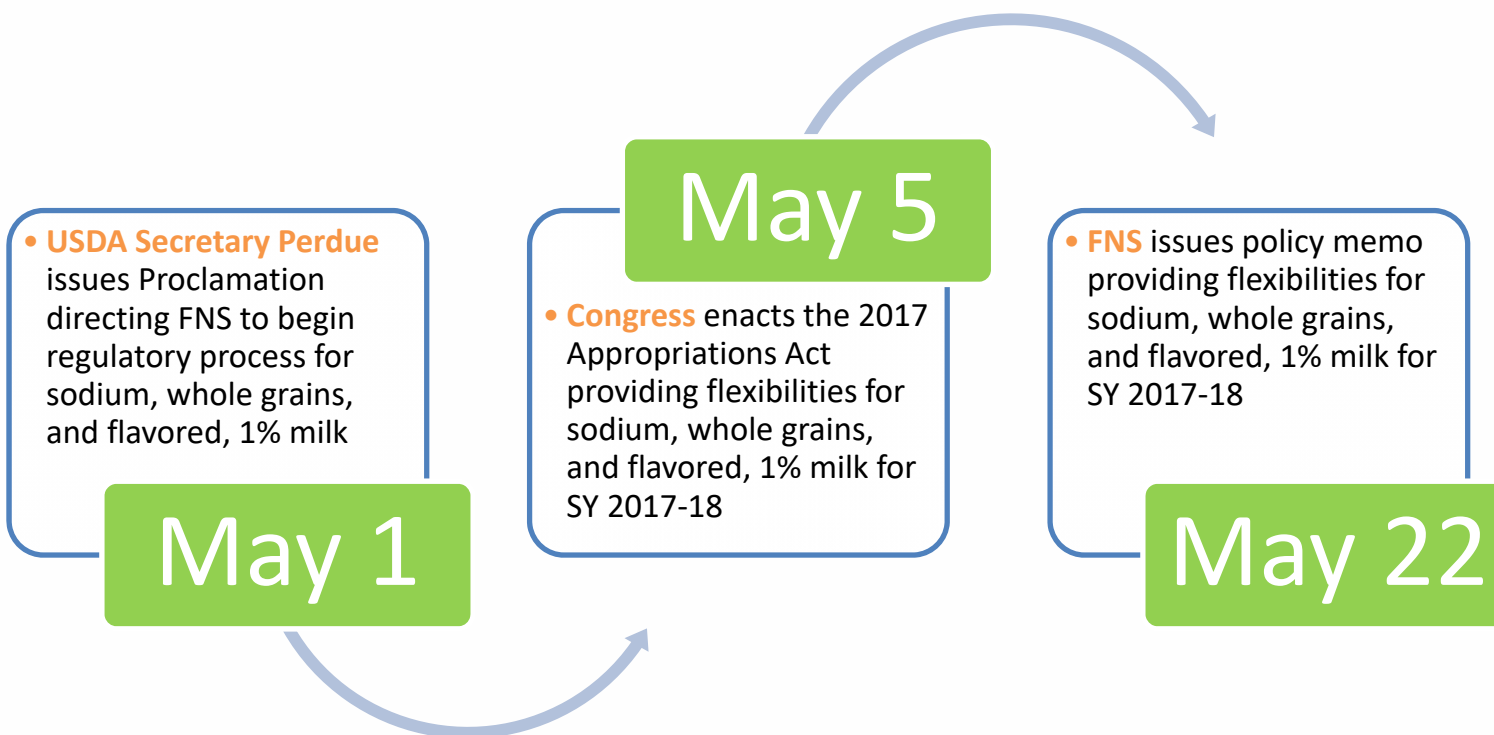
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Background



School Meal Flexibilities - SY 2017-2018

- **Whole Grain-Rich Requirement**

State agencies may offer certain SFAs exemptions from the whole grain-rich requirements in NSLP and SBP.

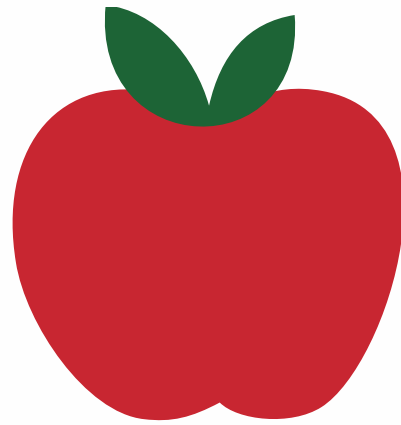
- **Sodium Limits**

Schools must continue to meet Target 1 sodium requirements.

- **Low-Fat, Flavored Milk**

State agencies may grant certain SFAs exemptions allowing service of low-fat, (1%) flavored milk in NSLP, SBP, and as a Smart Snack.





Whole Grain-Rich Requirement



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Whole Grain-Rich Flexibility

- State agencies may approve exemptions if the SFA can demonstrate hardship in procuring, preparing, or serving compliant whole grain-rich products that are accepted by students.
- Exemptions are allowed for any type of grain product (i.e., pasta, bread, tortilla) and for one or more different products.
- State agencies must notify their FNS Regional office and provide a copy of their exemption process.



Whole Grain-Rich Compliance



Grains offered
are consistent
with
exemption
granted by SA



At least half of
grains offered
weekly are
whole-grain
rich

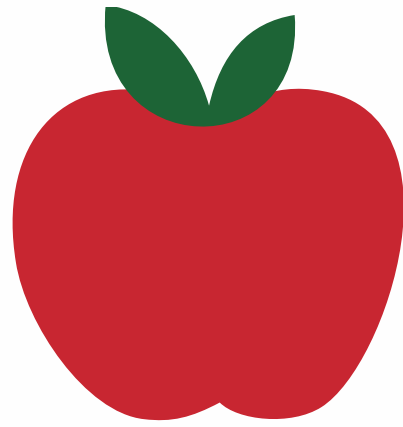


Compliant



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Sodium Limits



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Sodium Flexibility

- Schools must continue to meet Sodium Target 1 for School Year 2017-2018.
- FNS will continue to support Program operators in sodium reduction efforts through resources and technical assistance.
- Schools are encouraged to continue to work towards creating lower sodium menus that students enjoy.



Sodium Resources

What's Shaking Sodium Reduction Initiative

<https://healthymeals.fns.usda.gov/whatsshaking>

Team Up for School Nutrition Success Initiative

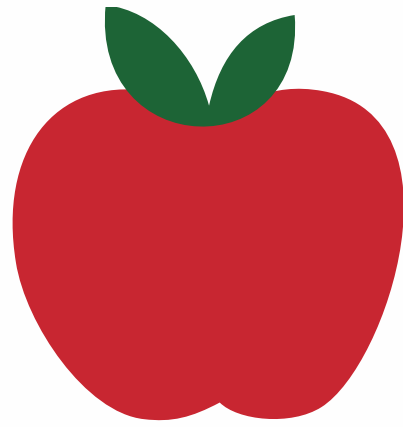


<http://teamup.theicn.org/>



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Low-Fat Flavored Milk



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Flavored Milk Flexibility

- State agencies have discretion to grant SFAs exemptions allowing service of low-fat (1% fat), flavored milk.
- In order to qualify for the exemption, schools must demonstrate hardship by documenting a reduction in student milk consumption or an increase in school milk waste.
- FNS encourages State agencies to provide this option to interested SFAs.



Flavored Milk Flexibility

- State agencies offering exemptions must establish a process for evaluating and responding to an SFA's exemption request.
- State agencies that elect to provide exemptions must notify their FNS Regional Office and provide a copy of their process.
- When evaluating an SFA's exemption request, the State agency should evaluate documentation provided.



Flavored Milk Documentation

Documentation of hardships may include:

- 1 • A significant decrease in milk sales since implementation of the current meal patterns
- 2 • Declining milk sales despite offering alternative products and brands
- 3 • A food waste study indicating significant waste of fluid milk
- 4 • Significant negative feedback from students and parents regarding lack of availability of low-fat, flavored milk
- 5 • Significant negative feedback from students regarding the palatability of fat-free, flavored milk





CACFP Flexibilities



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Co-Mingled Preschool (Pre-K) Meals



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Co-Mingled Pre-K Flexibility



- FNS is allowing a single menu flexibility when Pre-K and K-5 students are in the same service area at the same time (co-mingled).
- Co-mingled schools may choose to follow the grade-appropriate meals patterns for each grade group, or serve the K-5 meal pattern to both grade groups.

Co-Mingled Pre-K Technical Assistance



- FNS strongly encourages schools to find ways to serve grade-appropriate meals to Pre-K and K-5 students.
- SFAs should work with their State agency to find solutions to serving students grade-appropriate meals prior to using the flexibility.
- Best Practices to Avoid Co-Mingling:
 - Serving breakfast in the classroom
 - Staggering meal service times



Grain-Based Desserts



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Background

- Under the updated CACFP meal patterns, grain-based desserts may not count towards the grain requirement at any meal or snack, starting October 1, 2017.
- In the proposed rule, the majority of commenters supported no longer allowing grain-based desserts to be part of a reimbursement meal in CACFP.
- FNS adopted the definition requested by numerous commenters to use the foods denoted with a superscript 3 or 4 in Exhibit A of USDA's Food Buying Guide.



Grain-Based Desserts Flexibility



- Exhibit A was further revised to exclude sweet crackers (graham and animal crackers) from being designated a grain-based dessert in the CACFP.

LC2

- FNS encourages centers and day care homes to limit service of sweet crackers due to the higher sugar content.
- Centers and day care homes may continue to serve grain-based desserts as an additional food item that is not reimbursable for celebrations and other special occasions.

Slide 22

LC2

Tim recently made the point that the argument that eliminating sweet crackers would have an adverse impact on centers/homes ability to serve affordable and appetizing meals has been used in Schools. To distinguish the need for the flexibility in CACFP, but not Schools, I added in a bullet about at-risk afterschool programs and rural areas in the TPs below.

Carroll, Laura, 6/13/2017



Documenting Meals in CACFP



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Documentation

- CACFP centers and day care homes must show they are serving meals that meet the meal pattern requirements and keep records of menus.
- State agencies may determine other types of acceptable recordkeeping documents required to demonstrate compliance.
- FNS encourages State agencies to maintain current requirements or update existing forms to avoid additional paperwork.





Questions?



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Professional Standards

- **Presentation Title:**
Flexibilities in the Child Nutrition Programs
- **Presentation Key Area:**
Key Area 1 - Nutrition
- **Professional Standards Code:**
General Nutrition 1320





Thank You



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