11.18.2015 Local Foods and Activities in Summer Meal Programs Q&A
This USDA memo provides Q&A for guidance on the incorporation of local foods and nutrition and agriculture based activities in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Seamless Summer Option (SSO).

11.18.2015 Team Up for School Nutrition Success State Expansion
USDA has announced the expansion of its Team Up For School Nutrition Success (Team Up). The next expansion phase will provide State Agencies with tools to facilitate their own Team Up workshops in 2016.

11.18.2015 Federal Register Notice: Correction to Estimation of Record Collection Burden
USDA has made a correction to the previously approved information collection on the National School Lunch Program. More information is available in this Federal Register notice.

11.18.2015 Federal Register Notice: Erroneous Payments in CACFP
USDA is required to estimate erroneous payments for CACFP pursuant to the passage of the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act passed in 2010. The Erroneous Payments in Child Care Centers Study (EPICCS) will gather information specific to participating child care centers, both sponsored and independent, and including Head Start centers. More information is available in the Federal Register notice.

This memo provides guidance on the calculations SFAs must make in order to ensure they are in compliance with Paid Lunch Equity requirements for School Year 2016-17.

11.12.2015 Promoting Nutrition in Summer Meal Programs
This memo highlights strategies to improve the nutritional quality and appeal of the meals served to children in SFSP and SSO. Additionally, the Attachment provides best practices and tips on how to implement them.

11.12.2015 Meal Service Requirements in the Summer Meal Programs
The purpose of this memo is to provide guidance on meal service requirements in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the National School Lunch Program’s (NSLP) Seamless Summer Option (SSO). This revision clarifies the guidance on offer versus serve and family style meal service, adds guidance on meal pattern flexibilities.

11.6.2015 Procurement Standards and Resources Management Requirements related to Franchise Agreements
Franchise agreements often have provisions that are inherently problematic for the Child Nutrition Programs because they entail having a school or sponsor essentially “buy” into an agreement with a commercial vendor for the purpose of exclusively marketing or selling that company’s good or services as opposed to having that vendor submit a bid for its products during a competitive process. This memo strongly recommends that Program operators have their Program’s and/or State’s legal counsel review any agreements entered into with franchise operations.

USDA has provided a series of Q&A on the implementation of the Super-Circular to assist State Agencies in their transition.

10.27.2015 Federal Register Notice: USDA Comment Collection on Special Milk Program
This federal register notice, posted October 27th, 2015 announces a comment collection on a proposed USDA record collection related to the Special Milk Program (SMP). USDA will collect information concerning the operation of the program including the submission of applications and agreements, submission and payment of claims, and the maintenance of records. Comments are invited on whether this information collection is necessary, suggestions for minimizing the burden, and ways to enhance the quality. Comments may be submitted to OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov or faxed to (202) 395-5806. Comments are due within 30 days of this notification.

10.22.2015 Procuring Local Meat, Poultry, Game, and Eggs for CN Programs
In response to a number of questions FNS received related to buying local meat, poultry, game, and eggs; this memorandum seeks to clarify the regulatory requirements related to food safety and answer specific questions related to these products with a series of questions and answers.

Interested in more school meal policy news? Subscribe to Tuesday Morning www.schoolnutrition.org/tuesdaymorning for weekly detailed updates on SNA advocacy, school meal regulations and legislation.

Questions about SNA’s Policy Update can be sent to SNA’s Government Relations Coordinator, Nadia Egziabher, at negziabher@schoolnutrition.org