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POLICY UPDATE



03.10.2016 Extension of Deadline for LEAs to Elect the CEP for SY2016-17

This [memorandum](#) extends the CEP election deadline from June 30, 2016, to August 31, 2016, and clarifies that State agencies will be permitted to facilitate CEP implementation beyond the extended deadline of August 31, 2016, throughout the remainder of SY 2016-17.

03.16.2016 Proposed Information Collection Comment Request: Reducing Sodium in School Meals

The USDA [is proposing to collect information on](#) identifying, among schools that are successfully meeting the sodium targets, “best practices” that could be used to provide technical assistance to School Food Authorities (SFAs). An online prescreening survey will verify which SFAs are currently meeting sodium targets. The brief site visit selection telephone interview will determine which of the prescreened sites will experience in-depth interviews. Comments are invited on whether the proposed record collection is necessary, methods for minimizing burden, and ways to enhance quality. Comments may be submitted to Alice Ann Gola, at AliceAnn.Gola@fns.usda.gov or through the www.regulations.gov by May 16, 2016.

03.16.2016 Proposed Information Collection Comment Request: Application for HealthierUS School Challenge

This collection is intended to review and evaluate the practices of schools applying for recognition through the [HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms](#). The goal is to highlight those schools that are achieving success above and beyond in actively implementing smarter lunchroom techniques, Smart Snacks, nutrition education, physical education, local school wellness policies, and other criteria for excellence. Comments are invited on whether the proposed record collection is necessary, methods for minimizing burden, and ways to enhance quality. Comments may be submitted to Ebony James via email to Ebony.James@fns.usda.gov by May 16, 2016.

03.16.2016 Reporting Guidance for Results of the Administrative Review in SY2014-15

This [memorandum](#) provides reporting guidance for the State agencies that conducted reviews utilizing the Administrative Review process for School Year (SY) 2014-2015. State agencies that used the Coordinated Review Effort in SY 2014-2015 must follow standard reporting procedures on the current Coordinated Review Effort (CRE) Data Report (form FNS-640).

03.23.2016 Child Nutrition Income Eligibility Guidelines

The USDA has announced [Income Eligibility Guidelines](#) to be used in determining eligibility for free and reduced price meals for the 2016-17 school year. The new guidelines will go into effect July 1, 2016 and apply to the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program. The guidelines were obtained by multiplying the year 2016 Federal income poverty guidelines by 1.30 (free meals) and 1.85 (reduced price milk).

03.29.2016 Proposed Rule: Child Nutrition Program Integrity

The USDA has proposed a [Rule](#) to codify several provisions of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 affecting the integrity of the Child Nutrition Programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the Special Milk Program for Children, the School Breakfast Program, the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and State Administrative Expense Funds. The Proposed Rule is intended to improve the integrity of all Child Nutrition Programs. Comments on the Proposed Rule are due by May 31, 2016 and can be submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov.

03.30.2016 Yield Information for Fruits and Vegetables in School Meals

This USDA [memorandum](#) announces the availability of [new yield information](#) for fruits and vegetables for use in school meal programs. The yields are based on laboratory testing conducted by the USDA Agricultural Research Service. New [yields](#) are also available for the following grains items: whole grain and whole grain-rich pastas and parboiled brown rice.

04.19.2016 Requirements for the Distribution and Control of Donated Foods-The Emergency Food Assistance Program: Implementation of the Agricultural Act of 2014

This [Final Rule](#) clarifies requirements to ensure that USDA donated foods are distributed, stored, and managed in the safest, most efficient, and cost-effective manner, at State and recipient agency levels. Subpart E of the Rule is intended to ensure that School Food Authorities (SFAs) are able to order and receive the donated foods they can best utilize in the school food service, and to clarify requirements for SFAs in the storage, inventory management, and use of donated foods.

04.25.2016 Child and Adult Care Programs: Meal Pattern Revisions Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act

This [Final Rule](#) updates the meal pattern requirements for the Child and Adult Care Food Program to better align them with the Dietary Guidelines, as required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. This Rule requires centers and day care homes participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program to serve more whole grains and a greater variety of vegetables and fruit, and reduces the amount of added sugars and solid fats in meals. These changes are based on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, science-based recommendations made by the National Academy of Medicine, cost and practical considerations, and stakeholder's input. This is the first major revision of the Child and Adult Care Food Program meal patterns.

Questions about SNA's Policy Update can be sent to SNA's Government Relations Coordinator, Sabrin Osman, at s_osman@schoolnutrition.org