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POLICY UPDATE



8.5.2016 Year-long Eligibility in School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs

This [USDA memo](#) encourages local education agencies (LEAs) to accept eligibility determinations from transferring students in order to prevent disruptions in their meal benefits. School changes can be disruptive but ensuring that students do not have a break in their access to free and reduced price meals can help ensure students make a successful transition.

8.5.2016 Encouraging Early Implementation of “Carryover” Eligibility for Free School Meals

USDA is [encouraging](#) early implementation of the regulatory provision authorizing State agencies to allow a 30-day “carryover” eligibility period of 30 days for students transitioning from Provision schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP). Meals served to students during the carryover period are claimed at the “free” rate.

8.8.2016 Crediting Tofu and Soy Yogurt

USDA Food and Nutrition Services clarifies how to credit tofu and soy yogurt products as a meat/meat alternate component in meal planning. In the School Meal Programs and Child and Adult Care Food Program, 2.2 ounces (1/4 cup) of commercially prepared tofu, containing at least 5 grams of protein, is creditable as 1.0 ounce equivalent meat alternate. 4.0 fluid ounces (1/2 cup) of soy yogurt is creditable as 1.0 ounce equivalent meat alternate. More details on ensuring credit towards the meat alternate component are available in the [memo](#).

Federal Register: 8.9.2016 Value of Donated Foods SY2016-17

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service has [announced](#) the national average value of donated foods from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 for each lunch served by schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and for each lunch and supper served by institutions participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The national average minimum value of donated foods, or cash in lieu thereof, per lunch under the NSLP and per lunch and supper under the CACFP is 23 cents. This is a decrease of three quarters of a cent from SY2015-16. This decrease reflects changes in the average value of the Producer Price Index for Foods Used in Schools and Institutions for March, April and May.

8.10.2016 Ensuring Access to Meals for Low-Income Students

This [memo](#) highlights ways to ensure that children who are not currently directly certified but are eligible for free or reduced price meals are successfully given access. Also addressed, are ways to reduce the number of eligible children who lose access to meals during the verification process.

Federal Register: 8.10.2016 School Nutrition Error Rate Study

The purpose of this [third study on Access, Participation, Eligibility, and Certification \(APEC III\)](#) is to provide the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) with key information on the annual error rates and erroneous payments for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) in school year (SY) 2017-2018. In addition, APEC III will identify School Food Authority (SFA), school, and student/household characteristics that may be related to error rates, and identify strategies and actionable guidance for reducing errors.

Federal Register: 8.11.2016 CACFP Error Rate Study

USDA is conducting an [Erroneous payments in Child Care Centers Study \(EPICCS\)](#) in order to comply with reporting requirements concerning improper payments. The data collected will be used to produce national estimates of improper or erroneous payments in the child care center component of the CACFP. USDA will develop models for calculating annual, national estimates for errors and methods for generating State-level estimates in a White Paper. The data will also be used to inform policy-making and regulatory processes for maintenance and improvements in program integrity.

Federal Register: 8.25.2016 CACFP National Disqualified List

The Department of Agriculture is required to maintain a list of institutions, day care home providers, and individuals that have been terminated or otherwise disqualified from the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The law also requires the Department to make the list available to State agencies. By maintaining this list, the Department ensures program integrity. [Comments are requested](#) regarding whether the collection of information is necessary and accurate, and ways in which to make it more efficient.

Questions about SNA's Policy Update can be sent to SNA's Government Relations Associate, Nadia Davis, at ndavis@schoolnutrition.org