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POLICY UPDATE



10.19.2017 Updated Infant and Preschool Meal Patterns in the NSLP and SBP; Q & A

This USDA [policy update memo](#) provides guidance on the updated School Meal Programs' infant and preschool meal patterns. Some of the key changes include a reduction from three age groups to two, introduction of solid foods at 6 months instead of 4, certain foods no longer credible, yogurt and whole eggs creditable as meat alternates, ready-to-eat cereals can be served at snack, meals can be reimbursed when a mother chooses to directly breastfeed her infant onsite, and deep fat-fried foods cannot be part of a reimbursable meal. The memo details all of these changes and others, and also has an Attachment A, Preschool and Older Grade Group Meal Pattern Requirements: Comparison Chart, and Attachment B, Questions and Answers.

10.23.2017 Assessing the Child Nutrition State Administrative Expense Allocation Formula

In a [Federal Register Notice](#) posted on October 23, 2017, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced a study to assess the effectiveness of the current formula used for State Administrative Expense (SAE) allocations. States receive SAE funds from the Federal government to help cover the administrative costs of Child Nutrition Programs (CNP), which are operated by a variety of local public and private providers. The Child Nutrition Act of 1966 sets the total amount of funds available for SAE and a formula for allocating the majority of the funds to states, in addition to giving the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) the authority to decide how to allocate the remaining "discretionary" funds. The data collected in the study will be used to assess the effectiveness of the current SAE allocation formula, identify and examine factors that influence state spending and develop and test a range of possible alternatives to improve the SAE allocation formula. Comments are due by November 22, 2017, and information on how to submit can be found in the [Federal Register Notice](#).

11.02.2017 Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request: Collection of Contact Information of Schools That Participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and Organizations That Participate in the USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) for Sharing Team Nutrition's Nutrition Education, Training, and Technical Assistance Resources

In a [Federal Register notice](#) on November 2, 2017, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) announced an information collection of contact information of schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and organizations that participate in the USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) for Sharing Team Nutrition's Nutrition Education, Training and Technical Assistance Resources. [Team Nutrition](#) is an initiative that promotes lifelong healthy food choices and physical activity, and provides resources to Child Nutrition Program participants. Team Nutrition collects information from schools via the Team Nutrition Database so that they can communicate releases and updates of resources. FNS is expanding the database to collect the contact information of interested CACFP Organizations so that they too can receive electronic correspondence announcing Team Nutrition's materials and resources. Comments are to be received on or before January 2, 2017 and can be submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov.

Questions or comments?

Send them to SNA's Government Affairs Coordinator, Lawren Geer, at lgeer@schoolnutrition.org

11.17.2017 Summer Meal Study

On November 17, 2017, USDA published a Federal Register Notice announcing a new [Summer Meal Study](#). Legislation regarding the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Seamless Summer Option (SSO) requires programs participating in them to participate in program research and evaluation. Even though SFSP and SSO served over 3.85 million summer meals in July, there is an opportunity to reduce the gap between children who participate in school meal programs during the school year and those who participate in the summer. The study is intended to help identify strategies to increase participation in summer meals, as well as assess the nutritional quality of the meals served. Comments regarding this information collection must be received by December 18, 2017.

11.30.2017 Child Nutrition Programs: Flexibilities for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Requirements

On Nov. 29, USDA released an [interim final rule](#) to extend current regulatory flexibility for school meal programs through School Year (SY) 2018-19. The interim rule maintains Target 1 sodium limits for school meals. USDA “anticipates” extending this deadline through SY 2020-21. States can continue to offer waivers to schools demonstrating hardship in procuring or preparing specific whole grain rich foods that are acceptable to students (eg whole grain tortillas or brown rice). Finally, the rule provides schools the option to offer flavored 1% milk. USDA requests public comment on the interim rule and the sodium reduction timeline to inform the development of a final rule, effective in SY 2019-20.

Questions or comments?

Send them to SNA’s Government Affairs Coordinator, Lawren Geer, at lgeer@schoolnutrition.org