

October 16, 2014 Meeting  
Breckenridge, CO

Talking points from meeting provided for ACSN members to review with SFAs in designated region. Please refer to meeting minutes for more detail.

## Welcome of New Members

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- Kerri Link, Program Specialist, Office of School Nutrition
- Joella Carron, Mapleton
- Jim Rowan, Adams 14
- Sandra Mueller, Del Norte
- Katie Dubois, Lewis Palmer
- Nicole Guenette, Hope Online
- Jody Williams, Garfield 16

## Universal Application – National School Lunch Program

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### **Colin Tackett, Business Analyst, Colorado Office of Early Childhood Education**

- PEAK Universal Application provides households a fast and easy way to access benefit information - anytime and anywhere. PEAK is an online service for Coloradans to screen and apply for medical, food, and cash assistance programs.
- Application is a single resource that provides information to families on participation in or possible eligibility for state or federal assistance programs.
- For the School Nutrition Programs, the universal application provides income eligibility screening
  - Informs the parent that, based on the information provided, they might be eligible for the free and reduced price meals program
  - Refers the parent to district to complete the application
- There is no additional action needed by SFAs.

## Summary of USDA Roundtable Events

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### **Diane Fulton, MS, RD, Schools Programs Team Lead, FNS-USDA**

Members provided additional feedback and follow-up information from the September 8<sup>th</sup> USDA Roundtable event with FNS Administrator Audrey Rowe. Biggest concerns include:

- Whole grain rich requirements – SFAs/schools would like greater flexibility. This is being seen all over the nation for different whole grain products that are popular in that area (i.e. Colorado SFAs report having trouble with tortillas, states in the south are struggling with grits, etc.)
- Fruits and vegetables: increased food cost challenges and the offer versus serve requirement that students must take at least ½ cup.
- Sodium requirements- SFAs want to keep serving food that students think are palatable, but are finding it difficult to do so with the sodium restrictions and vendors aren't yet able to offer these types of products.
- Staffing costs-SFAs have indicated that staffing costs have been negatively impacted by the Affordable Care Act.



ACSN members provided additional comments and questions to Diane Fulton for USDA:

- Meal reimbursement – schools need more reimbursement for school lunch. Regulations have changes but reimbursement rates do not equally reflect that.
- Smart Snacks –
  - A la carte entrée items sold are only exempt from nutrition requirements if served within 24 hours of when it is on the menu.
  - Many high schools going off the program due to the Smart Snacks regulation.
  - Lack of available items that are in compliance.
  - Loss of revenue from a la carte sales.
  - Concern with Superintendents ignoring Smart Snack implementation.
- Milk waste and increased milk prices.

## Public School Finance State Board of Education Proposed Rule Change

**Jennifer Okes, Director, Public School Finance Division**

**Kirk Weber, Financial Accounting Technical Advisor, Public School Finance Division**

Proposed state board of education rule change

- Current rule:
  - Indirect costs are limited to the approved non-restricted indirect cost rule.
  - Districts can charge indirect costs to the food service fund using the indirect cost rate (percentage) or using direct coding of expenses
  - Districts must keep a fund balance reserve of at least 30% in order to charge indirect costs to the food service fund
- Reason for current rule:
  - Federal regulations require that the state provide matching funds
  - Previously, the state did not provide funding for school nutrition programs
  - The 30% fund balance reserve requirement was implemented in lieu of state matching funds
- Reason for changing the rule:
  - Beginning in FY 2001-02, the general assembly began appropriating funds to comply with state matching fund requirement
  - Since the match requirement is now funded by the state, it is not necessary for districts to maintain fund balance reserves in the food service fund
- Proposed rule:
  - Keep: indirect costs are limited to the approved non-restricted indirect cost rate
  - Clarify: districts can charge indirect costs to the food service fund using the indirect cost rate (percentage) or using direct coding of expenses
  - Eliminate: districts must keep a fund balance reserve of at least 30% in order to charge indirect costs to the food service fund.
- Reason/rationale for the proposed rule change:
  - Maintains and clarifies protection to ensure food service fund is not over charged
  - Reduces complexity of regulations governing food service fund



There was a lot of discussion and input from council members around topic, please see ACSN Meeting Minutes for further detail.

A subcommittee will be formed to address this topic area with the CDE Public Finance Division.

## Closing

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### **Jane Brand, RD, SNS**

- Performance Audit Status Update was presented to the Legislative Audit Committee (LAC) on Aug. 28, 2014 and the committee was very pleased with the OSN. The Performance Audit is complete and no further action is needed.
- Next ACSN Meeting: Thursday, Feb. 19, 2015. Denver location TBD.
- Proposed topics for next meeting: subcommittee report on proposed state board rule change, Administrative Review update, financial impact from implementation of the meal pattern, regulation updates (Smart Snacks) and Team Nutrition Training Grant update.