2/28/13

Thursday Update

Dear Districts,

**Directors’ Conference Follow-Up**

Thank you to everyone who attended our 2013 conference! It was great to see everyone (over ½ of the districts registered!), and from the feedback we have heard, it sounds like it was an excellent conference , with lots of useful information. We wanted to note that we will be posting all of the resources from the conference on our website once we have all of them compiled. Stay tuned to the Thursday Update, and we will announce when these are available.

**Special Dietary Needs Update**

After a great ‘Table Talk’ session at the Directors’ Conference, we wanted to let you know that USDA provided guidance to the question, “Is it allowable to store and prepare food brought in from home?” USDA regulations state that all food must come from an approved source; however, if the medical statement specifies a certain food item to be brought from home and details the appropriate storage/preparation temperature(s), then the food item from home is allowed to be stored and/or prepared by school food service according to USDA guidance. Keep in mind that you should always check your local health department policy before storing and/or preparing food brought in from a child’s home, as local health department requirements must be adhered to as well.

**Direct Certification**

An email was sent to all Direct Cert users on Thursday 2/21 to advise that the system was ready for the third and final required upload for 12-13. Uploads must be completed by Thursday 21 March.

**New Claim System Report**

The feedback we heard from several districts on the new system was that the old system’s monthly Excel report was much used and greatly missed! We agreed, so over the past several months, we worked with the developer and now have this report available. Claim system users can log in, click on Reports at the top, and then choose a month for which the data is needed. This report displays days served, free/reduced/paid enrolled, meals served, and amounts earned for lunch, breakfast, PK2 reduced lunch, and Start Smart breakfast. Enjoy!

**Celebrating National School Breakfast Week!**

The CDE OSN would like to recognize the Child Nutrition Program staff in schools/districts that have implemented a positive and noticeable change in their school breakfast program! Do you have a school that has greatly increased participation? And if so, how? Please send an email to Jeanne Aiello: aiello\_j@cde.state.co.us today or tomorrow in order to let us know.

**Bye-Bye Max’s, for 13-14 (Meat/Meat Alternates & Grains)**

On Monday 2/25, to all main contacts and Certification contacts, we emailed a USDA memo regarding the extension of flexibility in the meat/meat alternate and grains maximums for school year 13-14. In case you did not receive the memo, it is posted on our website at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutriUSDA-memos.htm>. This memo notes, in part, “*State agencies should therefore consider as compliant for certification and administrative reviews [in 13-14] those SFAs meeting only the weekly minimums for the grains and meat/meat alternates components. SFAs must also continue to meet all of the remaining food components and dietary specifications, including calories. The meal patterns remain unchanged and SFA menu planners are encouraged to consider the weekly maximums for grains and meats/meat alternates as a goal that can assist in offering balanced meals that meet the calorie, sodium, and saturated fat requirements*.”

**Competitive Foods Proposed Rule**

In the 2/7 Thursday Update, we announced that the proposed rule for Competitive Foods had been published. Just a reminder that if anyone would like to comment on the proposed rule to USDA, you can do so by visiting <http://www.regulations.gov/#!searchResults;rpp=25;po=0;s=competitive%252Bfoods;fp=true;ns=true>. Comments are due by 9 April. For your reading pleasure, you can access the full 160 pages of the rule at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cga/020113-snacks.pdf>.

**Certified!**

Congratulations to the following SFAs that were certified over the past two weeks for compliance with the new meal patterns: Strasburg, Deer Trail, Bennett, Arickaree, Otis, Lone Star, Woodlin, Pawnee, Yuma, and Byers . Hats off to these districts!

Flash drives received: 147 (80%). *Just a friendly reminder that the OSN has up to 60 days to approve Certification materials for an SFA once a completed flash drive is received.*



Thank you,

**Jennifer**

**Jennifer Otey**, Senior Consultant | Office of School Nutrition | Colorado Department of Education | 1580 Logan St. #760, Denver, CO 80203 | 303-866-6450 | Fax-303-866-6133 | <http://www.cde.state.co.us/index_nutrition.htm>

~Thursday Updates (TU) are brought to you by the CDE Office of School Nutrition (OSN) & are provided to

Main Nutrition Contacts, F&R Contacts, Certification Contacts, Claim System Users, & our additional TU List.~

If today’s TU contains information pertinent to a different staff person in your district, please forward this information to that person. | To access the TU archives, click [here](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutriEmails.htm).