4/17/12

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Outreach

(First message sent to districts with at least one school with at least 50% F&R; second message sent to districts with at least one school with at least 80% F&R)

Dear Food Service Directors and Food Service Contacts:

As you know, fruits and vegetables are important for your students, but it can be hard to convince them to try new foods! How *can* you introduce them to new fruits and vegetables and get funded to do so? The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program through the USDA provides funding to provide fresh fruit and vegetable snacks to elementary school students outside of normal school meal times. This is a fantastic opportunity to get classrooms and teachers involved in encouraging healthy eating habits!

**The 2012-2013 FFVP application is due on Friday April 27, 2012.** Unfamiliar with the FFVP? Check out this short video from USDA: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7nHf_7wwD4&feature=relmfu> and the FFVP program handbook: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/ffvp/handbook.pdf>  for more information.

**You are receiving this email because you have at least one school with at least 50% free/reduced. Please note that schools with over 80% F&R have a VERY GOOD CHANCE of receiving the program if they apply.** (We are not discouraging schools with less than 80% free/reduced to apply; however, preference will be given to those schools with the highest free and reduced percentages.) So please forward this information to the food service director, principal, cafeteria manager at schools that meet these criteria, and encourage them to apply!

Acceptance for the 2012-2013 school year is school based. Sites must:

* Be an elementary school.
* Have a free/reduced price enrollment at or above 50%. Preference will be given to those schools with the highest free/reduced price enrollment.
* Be able to begin operating at the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year (both new and returning schools).
* Submit a completed application including district and site information forms.

Please complete the district information form (one per district) and site information form (one per applying site), which can both be found at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutriFFVPP.htm>. Be sure to use October 1, 2011, data for enrollment and free & reduced percent, which can be found at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/download/PDF/2011PM/K-12FreeandReducedLunchEligibilitybyDistrictandSchool.pdf>

**Again, the 2012-2013 FFVP application is due on Friday April 27, 2012**. If you have any questions before then, please feel free to contact me at any point. Thank you in advance for your help and support of Colorado school children’s health and wellness!

Best,

Rachel Staver, RD

Senior Consultant

Office of School Nutrition

Colorado Department of Education

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[www.cde.state.co.us/index\_nutrition.htm](http://www.cde.state.co.us/index_nutrition.htm)

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**You are receiving this email because you have at least one school with at least 80% free/reduced. Please note that schools with over 80% F&R have a VERY GOOD CHANCE of receiving the program if they apply.** So please forward this information to the food service director, principal, cafeteria manager at schools that meet these criteria, and encourage them to apply!

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