4/25/13

Thursday Update

Dear Districts,

**Direct Certification Grant**

The OSN is very excited to announce that Colorado has been awarded a Direct Cert Improvement Grant!! This grant will allow us to improve our 68% statewide match rate (the 5th lowest in the nation) by implementing a new Direct Cert system (integrated into our current claim system), conducting a gap analysis, and providing extensive training and technical assistance. Our goal is to have the new system in place by mid-July, our usual Direct Cert opening date. At that time, we will provide further instructions on how the new system will work. We can assure you it will be easier—and with no more conversion formulas! Finally, Direct Cert uploads will be required at least four times next year (the first deadline being no later than 4 weeks before school starts—or, if personnel are not available during the summer, at least by the day before F&R applications could start being received by the district—but no later than 8/26).  Stay tuned for more information!

**Directors’ Conference 2014 Survey**

The OSN is already gearing up to work on providing you with an outstanding 2014 conference! To this end, we need your help. Please take a few minutes to answer 11 brief survey questions by 24 May, which can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RWFQJJY>. Your feedback is very important to us, so we want to hear from everyone!

**Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Promotion!**

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 requires state agencies to ensure that SFAs cooperate with SFSP service institutions to inform eligible families of the availability and location of free meals for students when the regular school year ends. One great way to do this is to check out the “SFSP-Promotion” pdf attached to this email. It provides information on advertising and includes promotional posters in English and Spanish.

**Paid Lunch Equity (PLE)**

Thank you to everyone who has already submitted the PLE tool for 13-14. The OSN has updated our website at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutriPaidLunchEquity.htm> with a new USDA memo and a flow chart developed by our office to help everyone with the submission of the PLE tool. Be sure to take a moment to read through the USDA memo, as it allows for flexibility for SFAs that are in a strong financial position. For PLE questions, please contact Lyza Brackett at brackett\_l@cde.state.co.us or 303-866-6670.

**Breakfast Webinar: Update on the School Breakfast Program Requirements**

* Summary: During this one hour webinar, the CDE OSN will review the changes for the School Breakfast Program effective July 2013.
* When:  04/30/2013 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM MST.
* To join the meeting: <http://connect.enetcolorado.org/r8im7kaix85/>.
* If you have never attended an Adobe Connect meeting before, test your connection: <http://connect.enetcolorado.org/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm> and get a quick overview: <http://www.adobe.com/products/adobeconnect.html>.

**Reminders**

Just a few reminders about some important upcoming deadlines & events.

* Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Application: If you would like to apply for the SFSP, don’t forget that the application is due by **3 May** (the deadline has been extended). If you have any questions, please contact Ashley Moen at 303-866-6653 or moen\_a@cde.state.co.us.
* USDA Farm to School Census: Thank you to everyone who has completed this survey. In fact, Colorado is leading the pack nationally, as we have an 82% response rate so far. Let’s go for 100%! If you have not yet completed this survey, please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/F2S> before **3 May**.
* School Breakfast Program 13-14 Webinars: Stay tuned for further information on the last two webinars on **5/10 & 5/29** (1-2pm). For now, be sure to mark your calendars for any one of these date options; all webinars (including the one on 4/30) will feature the same information.
* Free & Reduced Annual Mandatory Training—Information on the *regional* trainings was emailed 4/17 to all F&R contacts. Details can be found at [http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutriF&R-RegionalTraining.htm](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutriF%26R-RegionalTraining.htm). *Online* training info will be sent out soon. At least one staff person from each SFA must complete the training, but it is up to each SFA whether to attend in-person or to take the training online. Please note that the CO Springs training is full.
* Free & Reduced Application Checklist—Any SFAs making changes to the CDE prototype application, instructions, and letter to parents must submit this checklist to CDE by **31 May**. The checklist is in the F&R packet posted at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutriformsbook.htm>.
* 2013 CSNA Summer Conference & Exhibit, **17-19 June**: We hope to see everyone at this conference (which is combined with the CDE summer workshop) in Denver this summer! Full details & registration info can be found at <https://colosna.com/summer-conference-2013.php>.
* New Directors’ Orientation, **22-26 July**, in Aurora: Registration is still open for this orientation for all new food service directors. To reserve your spot and for more info, visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutridirector.htm>.

**Certified!**Congratulations to the following districts that were certified during this past week for compliance with the new meal patterns: Park R-3 (Estes Park), Kit Carson R-1, Sierra Grande, Karval, Cheraw, Weld RE-3 (Keenesburg), Briggsdale, Idalia, and Peak to Peak Charter. Magnificent work!

Flash drives received: 177 (96%). *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).