5/1/12

Updated Guidance on the New Meal Patterns

Dear Districts,

Want more guidance on the New School Meal Patterns? We have it! Recently, the USDA issued two memos, SP 30-2012, *Grain Requirements for the NSLP and SBP*, and SP 10-2012 Revised, *Q&A on the Final Rule, Nutrition Standards in the NSLP and SBP*. We have attached these memos to this email, and they are also posted at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutriReauthorization.htm>. Further, if your district regularly operates on a shorter or longer weekly cycle (i.e., not 5 days), you will find the attached *Short and Long Week Calculations* chart useful. This chart, also posted online, provides the necessary adjustments for the daily and weekly component requirements.

We have some highlights for you from these memos:

* Grains:
	+ Whole grain-rich products must contain at least **50%** whole grains, and the remaining grains in the product must be enriched. (Note: The previous guidance had set this % at 51.)
	+ Formulated grain-fruit products can count toward the grain component. (Previous guidance had indicated that they could not.)
* Fruits/Vegetables: The daily requirements for K-5 and 6-8 are ½ cup of fruit and ¾ cup of vegetables, and the daily requirements for 9-12 are 1 cup of fruit and 1 cup of vegetables. Under Offer versus Serve (OVS), a student may take just ½ cup of a fruit or vegetable for a reimbursable meal. Previously, the guidance we had received indicated that the ½ cup OVS requirement had to be comprised entirely of fruit or entirely of vegetables. However, updated guidance indicates that the ½ cup OVS requirement may consist of fruits and vegetables. So, a student could take ¼ cup of fruit and ¼ cup of vegetables, for example.
* Multiple Offerings:
	+ For menu planning purposes, SFAs must offer a weekly menu such that the sum of all daily minimum offerings meets at least the weekly minimum requirement. Example: If a grade K-5 school offers a 1 ounce equivalency (oz eq) grain item (salad) and a 3 oz eq grain item (pizza) every day (and instructs the student to select one option only), the minimum weekly offering is 5 oz eq grain (1 oz eq x 5 days). This menu would not meet the required weekly minimum of 8 oz eq.
	+ SFAs must also plan their menus so that the sum of the daily maximum offerings for grains and meat/meat alternates is equal to or less than the weekly maximum limit. Example: If every day a grade 9-12 school offered an item with 3 oz eq of grain (even if other items with lower weights were also options), this would add to a total of a possible 15 oz eq offered over the week (child could select that 3oz grain item every day). This menu would not meet the required weekly maximum of 12 oz eq.