08/02/2012

Thursday Update

Dear Districts,

**Calling All Certification Contacts!**

Last week, our office sent out materials so SFAs could begin working on certification of compliance with the new meal patterns (for the additional 6 cents per lunch meal). As mentioned we said we would provide you with more information on what the communication process will look like once your materials are sent in. We do plan on incorporating this communication into our new claim system. Therefore, we need to know, **by 15 August**, the name of the main contact in your district who will be working with us on certification. This way, we can grant him/her access to this section in our system. Please take just a minute to complete the certification contact information at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DR2KCPP>.

**Certification – Flash Drive Information**

As mentioned above, certification information (especially flash drives) was sent out last week. We wanted to give you some clarification about the flash drives. On the drives is a “Flash Drive How-to,” and in this, there is a screen shot of the folders and files on the flash drive. This screen shot displays a folder labeled “Certification of the New Meal Pattern.” However, this folder should not have been on the screen shot, as it is not on (and should not be on) the flash drive.

**New Contact for Requests for Meal Price Increase**

Thank you for your patience, as we are re-aligning some duties in our office. Jan Bodnar has graciously agreed to take over the Requests for a Meal Price Increase. So, please contact Jan (Bodnar\_j@cde.state.co.us; 303-866-6306) for questions and to send in your requests. For now, you can still send in your PLE information to Jennifer Otey.

**New Claim System**

We are still working on our new claim system, which will include the Renewal Agreements. In the meantime, we did want to give you the 12-13 reimbursement rates. Please see attached.

**School Breakfast Program Updates**

*School Breakfast Program Availability Outreach Reminder*

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 requires outreach on the availability of the School Breakfast Program.  Schools participating in the SBP must inform families of the availability of breakfast.  A notification of the availability of breakfast must be relayed just prior to or at the beginning of the school year in the informational packets that are sent to each household with free and reduced price meal applications for the new school year.  In addition, schools should send reminders regarding the availability of the SBP multiple times throughout the school year.  We encourage SFAs to use the information in ***Expanding Your School Breakfast Program,* the SBP Toolkit** found at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Breakfast/expansion/default.htm>, as a resource for outreach and expansion activities.

*Breakfast Equipment Grants Available*

The Food Family Farming Foundation has grants available for breakfast equipment.  Additional information can be found at: <http://www.foodfamilyfarming.org/html/grants.html>.  The application deadline for this grant is September 15, 2012.

*New School Breakfast Information*

Katie Jackson is the new School Breakfast Program contact for the CDE OSN!  She can be contacted by email at jackson\_k@cde.state.co.us or by phone at 303-866-6759.  Look for updates coming soon on the School Breakfast page on the CDE website.

**New Nutrition Education Tool Available for 7-8th Graders**

*Nutrition Voyage: The Quest To Be Our Best* takes 7th and 8th grade classes on an exploratory journey into school wellness. There are three inquiry-driven lessons for each grade, which include:

* Engaging ways for students to learn about making healthy nutrition and physical activity choices
* Standards-aligned activities for Math, Science, and English Language Arts
* Opportunities for students to investigate, participate in a challenge, evaluate, and reflect

Whether your class is embarking on the challenge to reach “Produce Peak,” investigating nutritious snack choices to fuel the trek, or conducting a school survey, it’s sure to be an exciting adventure. Trek on! This tool can be found on the Team Nutrition website:  <http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/Resources/nutritionvoyage.htm>

**Offer Versus Serve Teaching Tool**

The Offer vs. Serve cafeteria teaching tool has been updated with the new Offer vs. Serve requirements for lunch. This tool was created for grades K-8 and encourages students to select a variety of foods based on USDA’s MyPlate and also on what is required for a complete lunch.  There is also a set in Spanish.

The CDE OSN will not produce clings, but we have developed colored circles for each meal component that may be printed on card stock or laminated. The colors meet the USDA specifications for MyPlate reproductions, and RBG “formulas” are included. The signs should be posted on the line and circles placed by the respective meal component. The Offer vs. Serve cafeteria teaching tool is located at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutriOfferVsServe.htm>. For any questions, please contact Jeanne Aiello, SNS, at aiello\_j@cde.state.co.us, 303-866-6659.

**New Meal Patterns and Offer Versus Serve**

Revised guidance has been issued from USDA concerning Offer vs. Serve for the lunch meal pattern. In the revised New Meal Pattern Q & A’s (July 13, 2012), on p. 28, #7, it is stated: *If the menu planner offers the meat/meat alternate component as two food items or the grains component as two food items, is the student required to take both items if he chooses the component under OVS? ANSWER: Yes. Under OVS, the student must select full components; the only exception is ½ cup of fruits or vegetables.  If the menu planner offers the meat/meat alternate component (or the grains component) as two food items, the full component includes both items.  A full component is the daily quantity designated by the menu planner (no less than the established minimum) to meet the required weekly ranges.  The only situation where the student may decline half of the planned meat/meat alternate or grains component is when the student already has three other components on the tray.*

Previously, our office, based on the guidance we had received, had stated that if a high school student was offered 1 oz of pasta and a 1 oz roll, the student could choose to accept only one of those items in order for it to count toward a reimbursable meal.  Based on the above Q & A, this is no longer an option.  If the minimum quantity of the component is offered via two different food items, then the student must choose both of those items for it to count as a component of a reimbursable meal.  For instance, a high schooler would have to select both the pasta and the roll to count it as a full component under Offer vs. Serve.

Thank you,

Jennifer Otey

Consultant

Office of School Nutrition

Colorado Department of Education

1580 Logan St. #760

Denver, CO 80203

Nutrition Main Line-303-866-6661

Direct Line-303-866-6450

Fax-303-866-6133