10/11/12

Thursday Update

Dear Districts,

**Claim System**

* On 9/13 we mentioned we were posting upload instructions for any districts that upload their claim data directly into the claim system. Please note that these instructions have been reposted this past week, with a revision in sequence 29. The wording has been changed to reflect that this is the Severe Need section of the sequence.
* New item on main application packet screen: If you look at this screen, you will notice a Meal Pattern Compliance Dashboard. You do not need to do anything with this; this is an item we will be using eventually for the Certification process.
* A note about schools applying for Afterschool Care Snack Program (ACSP): The site applications in the claim system ask for “months of operation” for the ACSP. Please note that this question is specific to the months of operation for which snacks will be *claimed* for reimbursement. Afterschool snack programs may claim snacks only one month prior to the month of approval. As of October 1, no ACSPs may check August as a “month of operation” since these snacks are ineligible for reimbursement. Please contact Jeanne Aiello (Aiello\_j@cde.state.co.us; 303-866-6659) if you have any questions.

**Food Safety Inspections**

Earlier today, an email was sent to all main contacts and claim system users advising them that the reporting is open for the annually required Food Safety Inspection Report. Please see the memo posted at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutrimemos.htm> for more information. The report is due by 1 November and must be submitted in the claim system. For questions, contact Stacey Macklin at macklin\_s@cde.state.co.us or 303-866-6661.

**Craig’s Computers**

Craig Schneider, Food Service Director at Poudre School District, has made a generous offer: Poudre School District’s IT Department is currently replacing several computers, and they agreed to repurpose some of those computers. Given all of the new regulations in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (particularly Certification), it would be beneficial if affected staff (especially head cooks or others working on Certification) had access to a computer. So, if anyone would like to take advantage of Poudre’s offer, please contact Craig at cschneid@psdschools.org no later than Tuesday 30 October.

**Farm to School (F2S)**

Did you know that October is a time to celebrate? October is, after all, National Farm to School Month, a time to observe and further promote the connections being made all over the country between schools and local food! And, with great timing, The Colorado Farm to School Task Force has developed a new website, [www.coloradofarmtoschool.org](http://www.coloradofarmtoschool.org), for producers, schools, and communities looking to learn more about developing farm to school efforts in Colorado. Included on the website are school requirements, events, training materials & resources, funding options, and webinar information. Of the new website, Jeremy West, Weld County School District 6’s Nutrition Service Director, stated, “This dynamic culmination of Colorado Farm to School information and materials serves as a model for other states as Colorado schools lead the good food movement for our nation’s students.” The CDE OSN encourages all districts to try to get involved in Farm to School, so please take a moment to visit the above website—and don’t forget to party during F2S Month!

**National School Lunch Week**

Apparently, we are all about celebrating this month, so, be sure to gear up for National School Lunch Week, October 15-19, 2012! For more information on this exciting week, including *Take Your Parents to Lunch Day* (10/17), please visit our website at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/index_nutrition.htm> and look under Important Announcements.

**And the Winners Are…**

It is really important to our office to get to know everyone we can in the districts, so at the CSNA Fall Conference at the end of September, we had a contest to see who could find/meet the most CDE staff and get their initials. Our winners are: Pat Lyman (Littleton), Shannon Solomon (Aurora), Lissette Rivera (St. Vrain), Lynda Fluke (Alamosa), Monica Aragon, Mary Martin (CSDB), Ruth Frye, Joni Bilderbeck (Alamosa), May Martinez (Sanford), & Nancy Lancaster (Pueblo 70). You will be receiving your prizes in the mail soon.

**Hats Off!**

The CDE OSN would like to recognize Colorado Springs School District 11 Food and Nutrition Services Director Rick Hughes for receiving the Florence Sabin Award. In recognition of Dr. Florence Sabin’s outstanding leadership in the promotion of better public health in Colorado, this award is made for achievement in the public health field. Following is some information from the award ceremony: After arriving at D-11, Rick’s vision emphasized eliminating highly processed foods from the menus, and the Farm to School program was started to increase the supply of local foods to the school. And changing the menus meant that the food service staff would now be cooking, much like they did decades ago. Rick stated, “Through a grant at Galileo Middle School, we built a 42’ geodesic dome greenhouse and began the Galileo Garden Project, where we grow fresh vegetables and herbs to utilize throughout the department….We are also purchasing ‘local’ whenever we can, adding approximately $750,000 back to the local economy this year through local purchases of beef, milk, fruits, and vegetables.” Rick has shown that providing healthy, sustainable foods in schools makes good financial sense, and he has introduced countless numbers of children to healthy eating habits. He has attacked the problem of childhood obesity by eliminating some of its contributing factors.  Mr. Hughes exemplifies the spirit of Florence Sabin by doing what he believed was right in the face of overwhelming odds thereby making a profound impact on the health of our children.

*If your district has a noteworthy accomplishment to share in the Thursday Update, in order to promote best practices and encourage everyone to continue striving for excellence, please email this information to* *otey\_j@cde.state.co.us**.*

Thank you,

Jennifer Otey

Sr. Consultant

Office of School Nutrition

Colorado Department of Education

1580 Logan St. #760

Denver, CO 80203

Direct Line-303-866-6450

Fax-303-866-6133

~Thursday Updates 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 (Thursday Update) 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).