12/6/12

Thursday Update

Dear Districts,

**New Meal Patterns – Potential Update**

The OSN has received notice from USDA that there may be some changes to the New Meal Patterns regarding the grains and meat/meat alternates. At this time, we do not have any further information on these changes, as official written guidance has not yet been sent out from USDA. As soon as we have any new information, we will make this available to everyone. In the meantime, everyone should be following the regulations as they currently stand.

**USDA Memo: Determining Area Eligibility Based on School Data**

*Please read if you are interested in the following: Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), Afterschool Care Snack Program (ACSP), and/or the Seamless Summer Option (SSO).This memo has been posted on our website at* [*http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutriUSDA-memos.htm*](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutriUSDA-memos.htm)*.*

USDA memo SP 06-2013, November 23, 2012, provides guidance on using school data when determining area eligibility for purposes of the Child Nutrition Programs in instances where school attendance areas may not accurately reflect the population of the school for which eligibility data is being used.

* Examples of this include:
* Busing (students are assigned to schools outside  their neighborhoods)
* “School Choice” (students may choose a school other than the assigned school)
* Charter and Public Schools that draw students from multiple areas
* For questions on these programs, please contact Connie Harlow, [harlow\_c@cde.state.co.us](mailto:harlow_c@cde.state.co.us) (SFSP & SSO); Jeanne Aiello, [aiello\_j@cde.state.co.us](mailto:aiello_j@cde.state.co.us) (ACSP); or [CACFP](http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPHE-PSD/CBON/1251618272621).

**Reminders – Verification & Direct Cert**

Just a reminder that the Verification Selection Worksheet must be completed by 15 December, and the second required upload for Direct Cert must be done by 21 December.

**Nutrition Passwords**

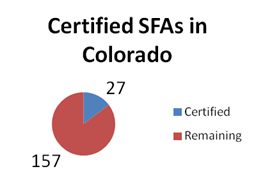
Just a reminder to be sure to write down your passwords for the online claim system and Direct Cert so that you know what they are when you log into these systems. If you cannot remember the passwords or get locked out, you can contact the OSN, but it may take up to 24 hours for the password to be reset. For assistance with *claim* system passwords, please contact Stacey Macklin at [macklin\_s@cde.state.co.us](mailto:macklin_s@cde.state.co.us) or Jennifer Otey at [otey\_j@cde.state.co.us](mailto:otey_j@cde.state.co.us); for help with *Direct Cert* passwords and with *setting up new claim and/or Direct Cert users*, contact Jennifer Otey.

**Claim System Note – Attendance Factors**

The OSN has received a lot of inquiries recently on attendance factors, so we wanted to provide information on this. Colorado uses a 96% attendance factor as a way to check the accuracy of claims. This factor is based on the methodology that, over the course of the month, generally no more than 96% of the students are present at a school every day, eating meals every day. So, if there were 100 free students, and the district served 20 lunch meals in a month, the claim system will multiply this out (100 free kids x 20 days = 2,000 possible meals) and then apply the attendance factor (2,000 possible meals x 96% = 1,920 possible free lunch meals that can be claimed). Sometimes, with small populations of students who eat every day, a school will exceed the attendance factor (e.g., 2 reduced students who eat all 20 days). If this occurs, the claim system will pop up an error. After checking to be sure the claimed meals and eligible students are correct, please email Jennifer Otey ([otey\_j@cde.state.co.us](mailto:otey_j@cde.state.co.us)) so your attendance factor can be reviewed and adjusted if needed.

**Certified!**

This week, the OSN would like to congratulate the following SFAs on being certified for the additional 6 cents: Westminster 50, Thompson, Trinidad, Prairie, Fremont Re 2, Mapleton, Agate, Frenchman, Granada, Summit, Colorado School for the Deaf & Blind, & Division of Youth Corrections. Way to go!



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).