12/10/12

Updated Guidance on Grain and Meat/Meat Alternate Maximums for SY 12-13

Dear Main Nutrition Contacts & Certification Contacts,

Friday afternoon, 12/7/12, the USDA released policy memo SP 11-2013 to **update the guidance on the grain and meat/meat alternate maximums for school year 2012-2013**. The USDA is allowing flexibility for SFAs in menu planning and for state agencies in monitoring compliance with the new meal patterns, specifically in regard to the grain and meat/meat alternate maximums. As reported in the USDA memo, any SFA is *“compliant with the component requirements for grains and meat/meat alternates if the menu is compliant with the daily and weekly minimums for these two components, regardless of whether they have exceeded the maximums for the same components.”* **Please note that menus must still be in compliance with the calorie ranges.**

What does this mean for you?

Certified SFAs: You do not need to make any revisions to your Certification documents, as the previously certified menus still fit within this additional flexibility.

SFAs that have submitted menus for Certification but are not yet certified: As our office has been reviewing flash drive materials, we have been contacting SFAs to obtain any needed clarification and to request any needed revisions. This process will continue, so we will contact you and work with you if changes need to be made, working within this new flexible guidance. At this time, you do not need to resubmit anything unless our office contacts you.

SFAs that have not yet submitted Certification materials: The USDA is not sending out revised Certification tools; therefore, the current Certification forms on your flash drive will still be used. Please keep in mind that you may have “red boxes” for the grain and meat/meat alternate components if you exceed the maximums. If using the Simplified Nutrient Assessment, the boxes for calories (and saturated fat) must still be green. If submitting a nutrient analysis, again, the calories and saturated fat must still be within the allowable ranges for the appropriate grade levels.

It is up to the discretion of each SFA regarding whether you want to re-evaluate your current menu based upon this updated guidance. If any changes are made, please be certain that your menus still meet all USDA meal pattern regulations, which, for SY 12-13, are inclusive of the grain and meat/meat alternate flexibility.

Again, for now, the flexibility related to grain and meat/meat alternate maximums is in place for SY 12-13 only; our office will advise you if USDA makes further adjustments beyond this school year.

Memo SP 11-2013 is attached to this email and can also be found on our website at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutriUSDA-memos.htm>.

Feel free to contact our office (303-866-6661) with any questions.

Thank you,

**Jennifer**

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