



Child Nutrition & Wellness

785-296-2276

785-296-0232 (fax)

120 SE 10th Avenue • Topeka, KS 66612-1182 • 785-296-6338 (TTY) • www.ksde.org

July Update

Distributed to the School Nutrition Program Authorized Representatives Listserv
Monday, July 7, 2008

We hope you had a safe and fun-filled 4th! Here are a few updates.

Reimbursement rates for 2008-2009 have been posted on www.kn-eat.org. Go to School Nutrition Programs, Program Overview. According to USDA, the new rates reflect a 4.272 percent increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers during the 12-month period from May 2007 to May 2008.

Register now for back-to-school **Administrative Workshops** and the **SMI Food Based Menu Planning and Production Records** classes. Go to www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, 5-Star Training System. Workshops begin soon, so register today!

KSDE has partnered with SRS to develop a new automated **Direct Certification** process. This process will be used to certify free meal eligibility for those students who receive Food Stamps or Temporary Assistance for Families (TAF). The first step in using the new process is for the Authorized Representative to complete KSDE User Registration. Please register at your earliest convenience using the instructions in the *Quick Reference* provided at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, Forms & Instructions. If you registered previously, you should now have full access to the system.

The **Income Eligibility Guidelines** chart for 2008-09 has been revised to include the conversion factors for annualizing household income. This year's chart provides eligibility guidelines for income received weekly, every two weeks, twice a month, monthly and annually.

- If the household reports the same frequency for each source of income, total the income and refer to the column on the chart for the applicable income frequency (i.e. weekly, monthly, etc.).
- If the household reports multiple income frequencies, annualize all income using the conversion factors, total the income and refer to the "Annual" income column.

In late May, guidance was posted on how to apply for the new **Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program** (FFVP). A couple of days later, I received notice from USDA that the recently passed Farm Bill includes additional money for the FFVP, but also some new limitations on schools that may participate. The FFVP will now be available to only elementary schools that have 50 percent or more of students eligible for reduced price or free school meals. The good news is that Kansas will receive funds for approximately 40 schools, rather than 25 as was previously announced. We are still accepting applications for this program, so we hope you will consider applying. The FFVP materials on our website will not be revised until we receive further clarification/guidance from USDA. In case you're wondering, schools that have had this program in other states absolutely love it!!!

The **KSDE Spanish translations** for the letter, instructions and application for reduced price/free school meals are now available.

Please contact our office or your area consultant if you have questions or need assistance.

Jodi Mackey, Director
Child Nutrition & Wellness