



Child Nutrition & Wellness

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Update

February 18, 2009

This information was distributed to KSDE's email lists of School Nutrition Program authorized representatives and food service directors.

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Food Recall Update

As of today, links to 144 peanut-related recall notices have been posted on our website (www.kn-eat.org, What's New). The vast majority of these items would not be served as part of a reimbursable school lunch or breakfast. Most of the items posted could possibly be served through vending, concessions or catering.

The recall notices are not always clear on where the items were distributed. Sometimes the announcement states that it is nationwide, but the product may not be distributed in all states. We are attempting to post any recall that might be of concern to schools or child care providers. However, for complete information on all recalls, you are encouraged to visit http://www.fsis.usda.gov/FSIS_Recalls/index.asp.

If you are serving any items containing peanuts that are not listed, we encourage you to check with your supplier to assure that the product does not contain peanuts from the Peanut Corporation of America.

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Summertime Success

If you aren't already serving nutritious meals during the summer, now is the time to consider that possibility. Kansas kids need summer nutrition because hunger doesn't take a vacation. Providing healthful meals can help maintain students' learning readiness, provide a safe place for children to interact with other kids and supportive adults, allow families to stretch their food dollars, employ staff in the summer, maximize use of otherwise idle buildings, bring money to the community, and build community partnerships.

The **Simplified Summer Option** provides for seamless operation of the School Nutrition Programs at sites with 50% or more of students eligible for reduced price or free school meals. All students will be served free of charge and meals will be reimbursed at the free rates for breakfast and/or lunch.

The **Summer Food Service Program** (SFSP) operates under different, although very similar, rules. Reimbursement rates are higher which helps to compensate for making a few operational changes. All meals are served free of charge to eligible children at participating sites.

You can read "**Kansas Success Stories**" from summer 2008 at www.kn-eat.org, Summer Food Service Program, Promotion. Thanks to the following districts for sharing their success stories: USD 202 Turner, USD 284 Chase County, USD 310 Fairfield, USD 374 Sublette, and USD 501 Topeka.

If you have questions about the SFSP or the Simplified Summer Option, please contact our office or your area consultant.

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Celebrate School Breakfast Week

National School Breakfast Week is March 2-6, 2009. This year's theme is "Power Up with Breakfast". The School Nutrition Association has created menus that will help your students power up for a day of learning! The association is also sponsoring the "Design a Breakfast Superhero Contest" which has both local and national rounds of competition. In addition there is a 12-page food service toolkit, activity sheets and stickers for kids, and marketing materials. To learn more, go to: <http://docs.schoolnutrition.org/meetingsandevents/nsbw2009/index.html>

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School Breakfast Toolkit

USDA's School Breakfast Toolkit has been re-designed as an online resource. To access the kit go to: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/breakfast/expansion/default.htm>

Many of the materials included in the kit are designed to be customized. You can download PowerPoint files, information sheets, letters, and marketing materials and modify them to suit your specific needs.

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School Breakfast Waivers

Eating breakfast is one of the best ways to assure that students are healthy and able to achieve their full potential. All Kansas public schools are required by State law to participate in the School Breakfast Program unless they meet the following criteria and receive an annual waiver from the Kansas State Department of Education.

Fewer than 35% of students in attendance at the school building during March of the current academic year are eligible for free or reduced price meals **AND**

1. The school building does offer the School Breakfast Program and meets the following criteria:

- Breakfast is available, but student participation is low.
- The school principal must attest that breakfast is available to all students in the building.
- The school principal must attest that parents and students receive regular reminders of the availability of breakfast at school.
- The school principal must attest that bus and class schedules allow students a minimum of 15 minutes to eat breakfast at school.
- The school breakfast average daily participation in March of the current school year must be less than 25% of the number of students eligible for free and reduced price meals.

OR

2. The school building does not offer the School Breakfast Program and meets the following criteria:

- There is documented evidence that there is no need for the School Breakfast Program.
- The school must specify the policy and procedures that allow morning nutrition to be provided in that building to any student who needs it.

Waiver Request forms for the 2009-2010 school year are available at www.kn-eat.org, **School Nutrition Programs, Forms & Instructions**. If you have questions about the waiver process, please contact our office at 785-296-2276 or your area consultant.

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Training Pays!

In these uncertain times, it is more important than ever to make the best use of limited resources. Sending employees to training continues to be a good investment. Well trained employees are the key to high quality and cost effective Child Nutrition Programs.

This spring and summer, KSDE will offer a full schedule of Leadership Connections, Child Nutrition Management Academy classes, menu planning classes and administrative workshops. In addition, we continue to work with Regional Training Cooperatives (RTCs) to assure that a classes tailored to local needs are available across the state. RTC classes are conveniently located, inexpensive and cover a wide variety of relevant topics.

We strongly encourage you and your staff members to participate. We also suggest that employees are paid to attend and that hourly wages or salaries are linked to completion of professional development activities. The benefits to your program will far outweigh the costs!

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Spring Leadership Connections Meetings

This spring's meetings will begin on March 31 and will continue through April. Invitation letters will be mailed approximately 3 weeks in advance of the meeting dates. We will be introducing the **Kansas Healthier Menus** – a new four-week menu cycle complete with recipes and production records. These menus meet requirements for the Healthier U.S. School Challenge and the Kansas School Wellness Policy exemplary-level of the Nutrition Guidelines. Plan now to attend.

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Child Nutrition Management Academy – Please note date correction for Haysville.

June 9-12: Hays and Topeka

June 16-19: Dodge City, **Haysville** and Iola

The full class schedule and registration will be available around the first of April at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, 5-Star Training System.

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Food Safety Training Records

Now is the time to confirm that all of your employees' **required food safety training** is up to date. Access your sponsor's Food Safety Training data in KN-CLAIM. If an employee has a status of "past due", please take immediate action to enroll that individual in a spring Food Safety Basics class. The class schedule and online registration are available at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, 5-Star Training System.

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Scheduling Body Venture for 2009-2010

Body Venture is KSDE's traveling health education exhibit for students in grades K-5. It is new this year and replaced its now retired predecessor, Body Walk. Body Venture has gotten great reviews from students, teachers and volunteers! To learn more about the exhibit, go to www.bodyventure.org. Later this month, we will distribute information for schools wanting to request a Body Venture visit during the 2009-10 school year.

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Reimbursement Payments

A voucher for payment of January reimbursement claims was processed on Tuesday, February 17 and we expect payments to be deposited on Friday, February 20.

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State Reimbursement Shortfall is Likely

Again this school year, KSDE will provide Kansas sponsors with school lunch reimbursement of approximately \$2.5 million in State funds. The amount of State funds has not increased in many years and has been paid at the rate of 4.5 cents per lunch.

By June 30 of each year, KSDE must appropriate all of the current fiscal year's State school lunch funds. In late June, after May claims are paid, KSDE reallocates any remaining State funds to each program sponsor based upon its proportionate share of lunches served during the school year.

Due to increased lunches served last school year, State funds were inadequate to pay 4.5 cents per meal for the entire year. Consequently, State reimbursement in May 2008 was reduced to 3 cents per lunch. Lunches served year-to-date have increased over the 2007-08 school year. So if this trend continues, we will find ourselves in the same situation this year, perhaps even earlier than May.

To avoid a shortfall in State funds for school lunches, the Kansas State Board of Education requested last year and this year that the Legislature increase State reimbursement for school lunches. The increase was not approved by the Legislature last year and there appears to be no chance of a funding increase at the present time. We will keep you posted as participation trends determine our course of action.

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Kansas Action for Healthy Kids Plans Youth Summit

Kansas Action for Healthy Kids will host a youth summit on June 8 – 9, 2009 at Mid-American Nazarene University in Olathe, KS. They need your help to promote the summit and to encourage students and their adult sponsors to attend.

Please distribute the flyers below to your contacts in schools, youth centers, and other community-based organizations. The goal of this first-of-its-kind summit in Kansas is to inform students, educators, and other adults who work with youth about the importance of physical activity and nutrition and to empower them to make a difference in their schools and communities. YOU are also invited to attend with a group of high school students from your community.

Follow this link to view an informational flyer for adult leaders:

http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/filelib/toolsforteam/minutes/KS_2009%20Resolution%20promo-adult%20FINAL.pdf.

To see an informational flyer for students, click here:

<http://www.indianaactionforhealthykids.org/KSKids.pdf>.

Let Kansas Action for Healthy Kids know if you're interested in participating by completing this short registration form by March 13, 2009:

http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/filelib/toolsforteam/minutes/KS_Kansas%20Action%20for%20Health%20Kids%20Youth%20Summit%20Registration.mht

Direct any questions to Megan Evans (mevans@learningcenter.org)

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Kansas Nutrition Council Annual Conference

“Crafting Your Nutrition Message...tools for an effective message” is the theme for this year’s Kansas Nutrition Council Annual Conference. The event will be held on Thursday, April 16 at the Grand Prairie Hotel & Convention Center in Hutchinson. The conference brochure and registration information are available at: <http://www.sne.org/KansasNutritionCouncil.htm>

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Parting Thoughts

Child Nutrition Programs are never more needed or valued than during tough economic times. Even with increased prices, school meals continue to provide a great value for families. The work you do every day is of critical importance to the success of schools because YOU prepare students to learn and make an immeasurably positive difference in their health and well-being. We greatly appreciate your hard work and dedication to serving Kansas kids! Thank you!!!

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