



Child Nutrition & Wellness

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November 5, 2009

Distributed to School Nutrition Program Authorized Representatives and Food Service Directors
via Email

Here are a few updates on what's happening now.

Bonus Commodity String Cheese

If KSDE enters into an agreement with USDA, Kansas schools will be able to purchase mozzarella string cheese made with USDA bonus commodity nonfat dry milk for an estimated 15 cents per serving. USDA has assured KSDE that entering into this agreement will have no impact upon our cash in-lieu-of commodities reimbursement. The cheese would be available through a large food service distributor. We need your input to decide whether to pursue this opportunity. Please click on the following link to complete a very short survey which will be available until Monday, November 16.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=QAFq9r_2b_2bxPD0_2fNqFtNhl6w_3d_3d

Verification Must be Completed Soon

Verification is confirmation of eligibility for reduced price and free meals under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. The following sponsors do not complete verification:

- Sponsors participating in ONLY the Special Milk Program
- Residential Child Care Institutions that do not also operate a school

All other sponsors must select and verify eligibility for a sample of applications approved for benefits. One person should coordinate verification activities for the sponsor.

Important deadlines for the verification process are:

- **Oct. 1** – Count applications and students approved for reduced price and free meals. Applications and students that are in “carry-over” status on October 1 are not included in this count. Complete the Pre-Verification Worksheet in KN-CLAIM to determine the number of applications that must be verified and the sponsor’s options for selecting the sample of applications.
- **Nov. 15** – Complete all verification activities. This deadline is the same whether it falls on a weekday or weekend.
- **Dec. 15** – Complete reporting of Post-Verification Results in KN-CLAIM.

USDA requires KSDE to annually report verification data for each sponsor. This information is pulled from the Pre-Verification Worksheet and the Post-Verification Results screens in KN-CLAIM. So please make sure that the information entered is accurate, complete and submitted on time.

For instructions on the verification process and all related forms (including KSDE’s Spanish translations), go to www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, Guidance, Food Service Facts, Chapter 8 – Verification of Eligibility.

Institute of Medicine Issues Recommendations for School Meals

On October 20, 2009, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) released the following information comparing current meal requirements in the School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program with its recommendations. The IOM recommendations will be considered by Congress when Child Nutrition Programs are reauthorized in 2010.

Breakfast: Changes in Minimum Amounts and Types of Food		
	Current Requirement	New Recommendation
Fruit	1/2 cup per day	1 cup per day
Grains and Meat/Meat Alternates	2 grains or 2 meat/meat alternates or 1 of each per day	1.4–2 grains per day plus 1–2 meat or meat alternates per day (Range reflects difference by grade group.)
Whole Grains	Encouraged	At least half of the grains to be whole grain-rich
Milk	1 cup	1 cup, fat content of milk to be 1% or less
Lunch: Changes in Minimum Amounts and Types of Food		
	Current Requirement	New Recommendation
Fruit and Vegetables	1/ –1 cup of fruit and vegetables combined	3/4 –1 cup of vegetables plus 1/2 –1 cup of fruit per day
Vegetables	No specifications as to type of vegetable	Weekly requirements for dark green and orange vegetables and legumes and limits on starchy vegetables
Meat/Meat Alternates	1.5–3 oz equivalents (daily average over 5-day week)	1.6–2.4 oz equivalents (daily average over 5-day week)
Grains	1.8–3 oz equivalents (daily average over 5-day week)	1.8–2.6 oz equivalents (daily average over 5-day week)
Whole Grains	Encouraged	At least half of the grains to be whole grain-rich
Milk	1 cup	1 cup, fat content of milk to be 1% or less

For further information on the IOM recommendations, go to www.iom.edu/schoolmeals.

Best wishes from all of us for a happy Thanksgiving!