



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

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

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

Verification Reporting Deadline Approaching

The vast majority of you completed verification by November 15 and entered your results in KN-CLAIM well ahead of the December 15 deadline. Thank you very much! For those who have not completed verification or requested an extension of the November 15 deadline, please send me an email as soon as possible requesting an extension. Any extensions beyond December 15 require written approval from USDA.

If you have not already, be sure to complete reporting of Post-Verification Results in KN-CLAIM by December 15.

ESPH Video News – New Issue to Be Posted December 1

We encourage you to visit our new website, the ESPH (Eat Smart. Play Hard) Video News at www.eatsmartplayhard.org. This site provides important information for families about healthy living and shows how Kansas schools are teaching their students to "eat smart" and "play hard". It is designed to share positive information with the public about school food service, physical education and healthy schools. The second issue will be posted December 1 and features **George E. Nettles Elementary in Pittsburg** and **Chanute High School**. Throughout the remainder of this school year, new videos will be featured from school districts across Kansas. There will also be newsletters, recipes, cooking videos and other resources that support eating smart and playing hard.

The ESPH Video News is a great tool for sharing health and wellness information with your students, their families, and patrons. We encourage you to include a link to this site on your district and/or school websites. By doing so, the district will achieve several of the Kansas Wellness Policy Guidelines on Nutrition Education and Physical Activity for "Family & Community". If you have comments, questions, or suggestions for the ESPH Video News, please send an email to Cheryl Johnson at csjohnson@ksde.org or use the "Contact Us" button on the website.

Competition: Recipes for Healthy Kids

There is still time for your school to enter an award winning recipe and have a chance to compete in a national cook-off with \$12,000 in prizes. Complete contest details are available on the competition website www.RecipesForKidsChallenge.com.

Kansas School Lunch Week

Visit the School Nutrition Association of Kansas (SNA-KS) website, www.sna-ks.org, for information on this year's celebration of Kansas School Lunch Week, Lunch Is My Favorite Subject, January 24-28, 2011.

Kansas Coordinated School Health – Regional Conferences

Kansas Coordinated School Health (KCSH) is convening regional conferences which will provide opportunities for school health councils and community members to learn about a variety of topics including: skills to maximize media relationships, the impact of advertising on children, and the importance of supportive policies and practices for “making a difference” in school health. For more information and to register, go to www.kshealthykids.org.

Wellness Policy Data to Go Public

To view current data on statewide average scores for each content area of the Kansas School Wellness Policy Model Guidelines, go to KN-CLAIM, Wellness Policy Builder. Select View Wellness Policy Graphs and select State Comparison. Compare your sponsor’s summary to the statewide summary data. Also, please check to make sure the wellness policy data you have reported is correct. The data for the 2010 program year will be made public on January 1, 2011.

HealthierUS School Challenge

USDA has established the *HealthierUS School Challenge* to recognize schools that create healthier school environments. Please consider getting started now and earn a monetary award per school ranging from \$500 at the Bronze level and up to \$2,000 for the Gold Award of Distinction. The criteria for the HUSSC is aimed at improving the health of children by improving the quality of food served, providing nutrition education, and providing physical education with opportunities for physical activity. Check out the criteria and learn more about the HUSSC on the Team Nutrition website, <http://www.teamnutrition.usda.gov/HealthierUS/index.html>, or contact Kelly Chanay (kchanay@ksde.org) or Franny Eastwood (feastwood@ksde.org) for additional information. Let’s work together to make Kansas the first state in the country to have all of its schools receive a HealthierUS School Challenge award!

Child Nutrition & Wellness Staffing Update

I am pleased to announce that Cindy Johnson has been hired as the Training Coordinator and began work on November 16th. Cindy has a bachelor’s degree in food and resource economics from the University of Massachusetts. She worked in college meal programs, catering operations, conferencing, and child care before moving into school food service. After working as a director with the Center School District and as an assistant director with the Springfield School District in Missouri, she has recently been the food and nutrition services director for USD 491 Eudora. Cindy has also been a cadre trainer for KSDE for 8 years. We are excited to welcome Cindy to the Child Nutrition & Wellness team!

Karen Works, RD, LD will be retiring on November 30th after 30 years of service. We will greatly miss Karen’s knowledge and expertise. She truly cares about child nutrition and has been an outstanding school nutrition consultant for southeast Kansas. Everyone at the Kansas State Department of Education and the Mountain Plains Regional Office of the United States Department of Agriculture join together in wishing Karen a wonderful retirement. Congratulations Karen! Thank you for caring and for your dedication to child nutrition programs in Kansas.

Best wishes from all of us for a happy Thanksgiving!