



Child Nutrition & Wellness

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September Update

September 23, 2010

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

Best Wishes Jodi!

Jodi Mackey retired as Director of Child Nutrition & Wellness as of September 1st. Jodi made tremendous contributions to Child Nutrition Programs including development of the KN-EAT website, KN-CLAIM, Wellness Policy Builder, Body Walk, Body Venture, Coordinated School Health, Eat, Exercise & Excel, Power Panther Programs and just recently the Eat Smart Play Hard Video News. She has been an advocate for making training accessible, affordable and relevant to school food service professionals across the state. Jodi will be missed, but we congratulate her on her many accomplishments. Thank you Jodi for all you have done for Kansas kids and for Kansas School Nutrition Professionals.

Reimbursement Rates

The Cash-in-Lieu of Commodities rate per school lunch is ½ cent more than originally announced. Reimbursement rates are available at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, Reimbursement Rates.

Jump Start for Directors

This class provides a comprehensive overview of responsibilities and resources for school food service directors. It will be held in Manhattan at the Kansas State University Alumni Center on October 6th from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and October 7th from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Cost is \$50 per person. Lunch will be provided both days. Register by October 1, 2010 by calling 785-296-2276. Additional information is available at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, What's New.

Jump Start for Managers

Dodge City is hosting a Jump Start for Managers class on October 21 & 22 at the Learning Center at 308 West Frontview. To register call Pam at 785-296-2276. Cost for the two-day class is \$50 per person.

School Nutrition Leadership Forum

KSDE is sponsoring the second annual School Nutrition Leadership Forum for district-level directors, supervisors and managers. This year's topic is *Envisioning a Blueprint for Healthier School Meals*. It will be held in Topeka on Friday, October 15, 2010 preceding the annual School Nutrition Association of Kansas (SNA-KS) Annual Conference. For more information and the registration form, go to www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, What's New. There is no registration fee and KSDE will provide a complimentary lunch for participants. Registrations are due to KSDE by October 1.

SNA-KS Fall Conference

School Nutrition-We Do More Than “Click Our Heels” is the theme for SNA-KS Fall Conference. It will be held in Topeka, Kansas, October 15-17, 2010. Go to www.sna-ks.org for more information including the registration form.

National Food Safety Education Month

September is National Food Safety Education Month. It is a good time to review food safety guidelines with your staff and to make sure your HACCP plan has been reviewed and is up to date. A new HACCP Help is available at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, What's New. Be sure to check out the new important information about safe handling of fresh produce.

Food Safety Basics

The fall schedule of Food Safety Basics classes is available at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, Training. All school food service personnel in Kansas are required to complete this class at least once every five years.

Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program

Guidance and forms for this program are located at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, Guidance, Food Service Facts, Chapter 32. A conference call to provide training and guidance to grant awardees will be provided on **October 6 at 2:00pm**. Participating schools should watch their email for information on how to access the conference call.

National School Lunch Week (NSLW)

NSLW will be celebrated the week of October 11-15, 2010. A link to the School Nutrition Association's promotional materials for NSLW is available at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, What's New. The theme this year is “School Lunch - What's on Your Tray?” NSLW provides a great opportunity to let everyone know about delicious and nutritious school meals!

Eligibility Clarification

Migrant, homeless and foster students' free meal eligibility is NOT extended to others in the household.

Disclosure & Confidentiality

The KIDS Matching Grant Program offered through the Kansas Treasurer's Office is not eligible to receive students' free/reduced price eligibility information without parental consent.

Food Service Facts

You can now access Food Service Facts by going to www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, Food Service Facts (on the blue menu on the left side of the screen). All record keeping forms for program administration are found in Food Service Facts.

Fall Leadership Connections

Fall Leadership Connections meetings will feature the *Eat Smart Play Hard Video News*. This new resource highlights the work of Kansas schools to improve nutrition, increase physical activity, and assist families in living healthier lives. KSDE's Child Nutrition Consultants will hold 30 regional Leadership Connections meetings in October and November. The meetings will also feature announcements, networking, and awards for professional development and manager certification. In addition, you will receive a nutrition education poster that will promote healthy eating and physical activity for your school! Don't miss “Lunch & a Movie!”

Vending Requirements & Nutrition Calculators

At the Kansas State Board of Education's May 12, 2010 meeting, they adopted a policy requiring all accredited K-12 schools in Kansas to implement the Advanced level of the Kansas School Wellness Policy Model Guidelines for foods and beverages sold in vending machines by August 1, 2010, and to implement the Exemplary level of the guidelines for vending by August 1, 2011. You can find information about the new requirements for foods and beverages sold in vending machines at www.kn-eat.org, School Wellness Policies. Also included are Questions and Answers about implementation of the Vending Guidelines and Nutrition Calculators. Each calculator lists items that meet the Wellness Policy Guidelines nutrition criteria for a category of foods, such as cookies and crackers. The calculators can be downloaded and saved on a user's computer. Additional products can easily be entered into the calculator by the user. The calculator will indicate if the product meets each of the applicable nutrition criteria.

Verification

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:

- October 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. Verify ONLY the number required unless verified “for cause”.
- November 15 – Complete all verification activities. This deadline is the same whether it falls on a weekday or weekend.
- December 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. 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, Food Service Facts, Chapter 8-Verification of Eligibility.

Healthier Kansas Breakfast Menus

We are excited to announce that the Healthier Kansas Breakfast Menus are ready! Come to the Leadership Forum to learn more about this new set of cycle menus and recipes from the KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness Team.

Food Recall Alerts

For information and to sign up for email updates about recalls and public health alerts go to www.fsis.usda.gov/FSIS_recalls/index.asp.

HealthierUS School Challenge

The HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC) is a voluntary initiative established by the United States Department of Agriculture. HUSSC recognizes schools participating in the National School Lunch Program that have created healthier school environments through promotion of nutrition and physical activity. The Kansas schools listed below have joined the elite ranks of schools earning this prestigious award. Fewer than 1% of schools nationally have received this award. Congratulations to these winners! (Schools are listed in the order the HUSSC award was earned.)

USD 320 Wamego, West Elementary School (Silver Award)

USD 320 Wamego, Central Elementary School (Silver Award)

USD 277 Jetmore, Jetmore Elementary School (Silver Award)

USD 374 Sublette, Sublette Elementary School (Silver Award)

USD 225 Fowler, Fowler Elementary School (Bronze Award)

USD 345 Seaman, Logan Elementary School (Bronze Award)

Your school's name could be here!

You are Appreciated!

I am excited to have the opportunity to lead the Child Nutrition and Wellness Team and look forward to working with all of you! The work YOU do every day is of critical importance to the success of schools because YOU prepare students to learn and do make a positive difference in their health and well-being. The Child Nutrition & Wellness Team appreciates all you do! If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Cheryl Johnson (785-296-2276 or csjohnson@ksde.org) or your area KSDE child nutrition consultant.