Reply to
Attn. of: SP 97-14
CACFP-501
SFSP-308

Subject: Grains/Breads Requirement

To: STATE AGENCY DIRECTORS - Colorado ED, Colorado DPHE, Colorado DHS,
(Child Nutrition Programs) Iowa, Kansas, Missouri ED, Missouri DH,
Montana OPI, Montana DPHHS, Nebraska ED,
Nebraska SS, North Dakota, South Dakota,
Utah, Wyoming ED, and Wyoming DHSS

As you know, there have been several questions raised regarding one-quarter
(1/4) of a serving of the grains/breads component due to information received
at the School Meals Initiative (SMI) Training in January 1996. We passed on
the questions and issues to Headquarters and believe that these questions have
now been answered in the Grains/Breads Instruction 783-1, Revision 2.

The Instruction states that “one-quarter (1/4) of a serving is the smallest
amount allowable to be credited toward the minimum quantities of grains/breads
specified in program regulations.” We interpret this to mean that at least
one full bread serving must be taken by a child in order for that meal to be
reimbursable. See the following examples:

Example 1 - The menu offers a 2-ounce roll and a piece
of pie which contains ¾ serving. In order
for the grains/breads component to be satisfied, the child would be required to
take the 2-ounce roll. Of course, the
child could take the piece of pie and the
meal still be reimbursable as long as
there are at least three other items taken
by the child as required under Offer vs.
Serve.

Example 2 - The menu offers a 1-ounce roll, a cookie
containing ½ serving of grains/breads, and
rice contributing ½ serving of
grains/breads. In order for the
grains/breads component to be satisfied,
the child could either take the 1-ounce
roll alone; the 1-ounce roll plus one or
both of the other two choices; or the
cookie and the rice. A child could not
take the cookie alone or the rice alone
and have it count as meeting the
requirement for grains/breads.
As you can see from the examples, a full serving of grains/breads must be on a child’s plate if it is to be counted as satisfying the grains/breads component. One-quarter (1/4) serving is the minimum allowed for crediting when determining the required number of grains/breads serving offered over a school week. However, one quarter (1/4) serving or anything less than one full serving is not sufficient in fulfilling the grains/breads component for a reimbursable meal.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of my staff at (303) 844-0355.

Ann C. Degroat
ANN C. DEGROAT
Regional Director
Child Nutrition Programs