USDA Child Nutrition Programs Administrative Review Summary Report

School Food Authority: St Peter's Lutheran School Agency Code: 207832

School(s) Reviewed: St Peter's Lutheran School

Review Date(s): April 3-4, 2019 Date of Exit Conference: April 4, 2019

State agencies (SA) are required to conduct administrative reviews to assess School Food Authority (SFA)'s administration of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and other school nutrition programs. The objectives of the Administrative Reviews are to:

Determine whether the SFA meets program regulations,

- Provide technical assistance.
- Secure needed corrective action,
- Assess fiscal action, and when applicable, recover improperly paid funds.

General Program Reminders/Updates:

- The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) School Nutrition Team (SNT) conducts School Nutrition Skills Development Courses (SNSDC) each summer in various locations around the state. Courses cover many areas of the school nutrition programs including administrative responsibilities, program basics, meal pattern requirements and menu planning, financial management, meal benefit determination process, professional standards, procurement, and many other topics. More information along with other upcoming trainings and webinars can be found on the Wisconsin DPI School Nutrition Training webpage (dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/training).
- SFA staff are encouraged to pursue GOALS Certification. GOALS stands for Goal Oriented Achievement Learning Skills. This is a certificate endorsed by the DPI and is obtained by completing training in nutrition, program administration and operations, or communications and marketing. For more information go to the Wisconsin DPI <u>School Nutrition Training</u> webpage (dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/training/goal-oriented-achievement-learning-skills).
- The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has a toolkit of resources to assist schools in meeting
 the nutrition standards on their <u>Healthier School Day: The School Day Just Got Healthier</u> webpage.
 The topics covered include Smart Snacks, offering fruits and vegetables, reducing sodium, and
 serving whole grain-rich products (http://www.fns.USDA.gov/healthierschoolday).
- The Smarter Lunchrooms Movement encourages schools to implement low-cost and no-cost lunchroom solutions to help students select healthier meal options (http://smarterlunchrooms.org). Smarter Lunchroom techniques are easy to begin implementing and help encourage student consumption of fruits, vegetables, legumes, non-flavored milk, and other healthful choices. These strategies are effective and research-based. Consider trying the Smarter Lunchroom techniques for increasing consumption of white milk.

Appreciation/Commendations/Noteworthy Initiatives:

Thank you to the staff at St Peter's Lutheran for the courtesies extended to us during the on-site review and for being available to answer questions and provide additional information. All were very receptive to recommendations and guidance. In addition, thank you for taking the time to respond to the off-site questions and requests, as well as pulling records for the on-site portion of the review.

EVIEW AREAS

1. MEAL ACCESS AND REIMBURSEMENT

Certification and Benefit Issuance

Commendations/Comments/Technical Assistance (TA)/Compliance Reminders

Free and Reduced Price Meal Applications

- Applications must be reviewed in a timely manner. An eligibility determination must be made, the
 family notified of its status, and the status implemented within 10 operating days of the receipt of the
 application.
- Children are eligible for free or reduced price meal benefits on the date their eligibility is determined by the Determining Official.
- All free/reduced applications and the direct certification runs were available for review. All
 applications have been approved and students are receiving the benefits they have been determined
 eligible for.
 - When an application only has one frequency of payment indicated for all of their reported incomes on the application, the income should not be converted to annual, but using the <u>Income Eligibility Guidelines</u> one would look at the amount of their income under the column indicating that stated frequency (i.e., weekly, twice monthly, every two weeks, monthly, annually)
- When a household has income in addition to a loss from a business, that income must be included on the free and reduced application in full and is not offset by the business loss. A business loss (negative dollar amount) would become \$0 for the income on the application.

Annual Income

• There has been a recent modification to the requirement pertaining to the reporting of annual income on an application. USDA released SP-19, 2017 on March 20, 2017 allowing households to report current income as an *annual figure*. Annual income is typically reported for households with jobs that are seasonal, self-employed, or agricultural work since that is a more accurate representation of *current income*. These applications may now be processed at face value. However, most households that receive regular pay checks, will report income based on what is *currently earned* and the frequency of that pay, i.e. weekly, biweekly, bimonthly or monthly.

Income Eligibility Guidelines

The current <u>Income Eligibility Guidelines</u> (IEGs) are used to determine applications, whether manually
or electronically. If done through software, please check that the income levels are updated each year
after July 1.

• The complete IEG grid may not be sent to the households applying for meal benefits as they include the specific income amounts for free or reduced benefits. Therefore, the Public Release may not be sent to households, either. The information letter must include the reduced price guidelines and an explanation that households with incomes at or below the reduced price income limit may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Typically, the information letter is the USDA template entitled Letter to Parents/Frequently Asked Questions (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/doc/fr-application-parent-guardian-letter-faq.docx).

Household Size Box

• The total household member size box includes all children and adults in the household and must match the number of names on the application for that application to be considered complete.

Incomplete Applications

Any application that is missing required information, contains inconsistent information, or is unclear is
considered an incomplete application and may not be determined until clarified with the household.
The SFA may return the application to the household or contact the child's parent or guardian either
by phone or in writing/email. The determining official should document the details of the
conversation plus date and initial. Applications missing signatures must be returned to the parent to
obtain. Reasonable effort should be made to obtain the missing information prior to denying the
application.

Application Forms

• If an SFA wishes to change the look or format of the application for Free or Reduced-price school meals or other forms in the application packet, that document needs to be approved by the School Nutrition team at DPI.

Other Source Categorical

- If a household submits an application that indicates Other Source Categorical Eligibility, such as
 homeless, migrant, or runaway, the SFA must confirm the children's status by an appropriate program
 official either through direct contact with the agency or by a list of names provided by the agency,
 before meal benefits can be provided. Once confirmed, this eligibility is only available to the
 designated child and is not extended to other members of the household.
- Applications that indicate a child is a foster child are categorically eligible for free meals. The child's status for free meals does not require confirmation of eligibility prior to receiving benefits. This benefit is not extended to other household members.

Public Release

- All SFAs are required to distribute a <u>Public Release</u> before the start of the school year (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/free-reduced-applications#apps). The purpose is to inform the public that free and reduced price meals are available. SFAs must annually distribute the Public Release to:
- Local news media
- Grassroots organizations (local organizations providing services to populations in need)
- Major employers contemplating or experiencing large layoffs
- Local Unemployment Office (as applicable)

• SFAs are not required to pay to have the public release published but must maintain documentation of whom it was sent to along with the specific materials distributed.

<u>Limited English Proficiency (LEP)</u>

- Application materials and other communications with households concerning eligibility
 determinations must be provided in a language that parents or guardians can understand in order to
 diminish any language barriers to participation for individuals with limited English proficiency.
- SFAs must make reasonable efforts to provide household letters and application forms to families in the appropriate languages.
- To assist SFAs in reaching households with limited English proficiency, the SNT provides the Wisconsinized version of the USDA Free and Reduced Price Meal application materials in English, Spanish, and Hmong.
- The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) website offers many other <u>foreign language translations</u> of the Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals (https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/translated-applications).
- The nonprofit food service account may be used to pay for translation services if there is a need to translate materials in a language that is not currently available.

Direct Certification

- As a reminder, you are required to run direct certification a minimum of three times a year: at or near the beginning of the school year, three months after the initial run and six months after the initial run.
- The effective eligibility date for a DC eligible student is the date of the original output file.

Disclosure

- The information provided by the family on the free and reduced price application is to be used only for determining eligibility for meal or milk benefits.
- The LEA must seek written consent from the parent or guardian to use the information provided on
 the application or through direct certification for non-program purposes, such as athletic or testing
 fee waivers, registration fee waiver, school fees, etc. Consent must be obtained each school year. Find
 the Sharing Information with Other Programs template on the Free and Reduced Meal Applications
 and Eligibility webpage (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/doc/sharing-infoother-programs.doc).
- For anyone receiving eligibility information to approve students for non-food service program
 benefits after parental consent is received, the *Disclosure Agreement* form should be signed and on file
 at the district. A template <u>Disclosure of Free and Reduced Price Information</u> form is located on the
 SNT website (http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/doc/disclosureagreement.docx).

Verification

Commendations/Comments/Technical Assistance (TA)/Compliance Reminders

• When applications are chosen for verification, the person designated as the Confirming Official must review the application(s) to ensure the initial determination is correct prior to contacting the family. There is a place for the Confirming Official to sign and date on the back of the application.

• When a benefit eligibility status increases, the change must take place within 3 days. When a benefit eligibility decreases, the change cannot take place before 10 calendar days and a notice of adverse action is sent in writing with appeal rights procedures.

Findings and Corrective Action Needed: Verification

☐ Finding: The finding was that the application selected for verification did not have the confirming or verifying official's signature on it. It was confirmed with food service director that the confirmation review did take place but it was just forgotten to have confirming official sign off on the application. Verification was completed but again no signature for the verifying official was listed on application.

Corrective Action Needed: Please submit a statement that the officials are aware of the requirement to sign off on the applications.

Meal Counting and Claiming

Commendations/Comments/Technical Assistance (TA)/Compliance Reminders

- Meals may only be charged to a student upon receipt of a reimbursable meal to assure proper benefits issuance.
- When entering the claim it is necessary to use the edit check to calculate your reimbursable meals by site for claim submission.
- Meals must be offered to all students each day school is in session a full day, so DPI has created <u>Field Trip meal resources</u> to help schools offer student meals (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/menu-planning).
- Please note that SFAs may claim visiting students in the paid category or the individual's category with documentation, unless they are from a CEP school.
- REMINDER: Meal benefits apply only to the reimbursable meal. The reimbursable meal includes milk as one of the required components, and must be priced as a unit. If the student decides to take only milk, this is not a reimbursable meal and will be charged for the milk as an a la carte item.
- When entering the claim it is necessary to use the edit check to calculate your reimbursable meals by site for claim submission.

Findings and Corrective Action Needed: Meal Counting and Claiming

☐ **Finding:** The finding was that the staff who handled the point of service for the older grades were bundling tickets. This is not an acceptable practice.

Corrective Action Required: Please correct the process and submit a statement on how the point of service was corrected.

2. MEAL PATTERN AND NUTRITIONAL QUALITY

Thank you to the staff of St. Peters Lutheran School for their time, cooperation, and warm welcome during the Administrative Review. Thank you to the Food Service Director for providing documentation prior to the on-site review and answering all questions. The school nutrition professionals work well together and with students. There is a very nice salad bar with a variety of fresh vegetables offered daily. The school nutrition professionals and teachers help younger students with service of foods and condiments on the

salad bar, which is very helpful. It was impressive how little food waste there was after meal service, which indicated that the students have a great understanding of Offer versus Serve. The Food Service Director also offers students the choice of whole or half portions that still meet the requirements for full components under Offer versus Serve, making this less confusing for students. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to your National School Lunch Program!

Technical Assistance:

Monthly Menu

The printed menu should list all components included with the reimbursable meal. Currently, milk, fruit, and vegetables are not listed on the menu. These options may either be listed daily or in one place on the menu that includes a statement that says a variety of milk, fruit, and vegetables are offered daily as part of the reimbursable meal. Please also include a statement about the alternate entrée options offered.

Production Records

All foods that are part of the reimbursable meal must have all production record requirements filled in. Currently, the number of chef salads, PB&Js, and string cheese are counted, but all production record columns are not filled in for these options. Please list these options on the production record as all other options are listed.

Standardized Recipes

Some standardized recipes do not contain all of the standardized recipe requirements, such as recipe yield and portion size. Portion sizes should be included on the recipes, even though they are also included on the production record. Please use the Standardized Recipe Checklist and the Standardized Recipes webpage as resources (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/standardized-recipe-checklist.pdf; https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/menuplanning/recipes).

Milk Types

It is required that students are able to choose from a minimum of two types of milk throughout the entire meal service. Toward the end of meal service, it was noted that there was one white milk and numerous chocolate milks. The Public Health Nutritionist reminded the Food Service Director of this requirement before the last white milk was selected. This was corrected before the last white milk was selected, and all students were able to choose from a variety.

Half Cup Fruit and Vegetable Handout

For assistance with identifying crediting of common fruits and vegetables, the DPI SNT <u>Half-Cup Crediting of Fruits and Vegetables Handout</u> is a great resource (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/half-cup-fruit-veg.pdf).

Menu Planning Worksheet

Menus must be planned to meet meal pattern requirements. To assist with this process, use a K-8 Menu Planning Worksheet (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/menu-planningworksheet-lunch-k-8.doc). Instructions for using this tool and more menu planning resources can be found on the NSLP Menu Planning webpage (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/menu-planning).

In-House Yield Study

In-house yield data may be used for crediting food items contributing to meal pattern requirements. Original documentation showing methods and procedures used to determine yield must be completed and maintained at the food service operation and will be reviewed during the SFAs next regularly scheduled Administrative Review. An in-house yield study may be warranted if your food service operation consistently gets higher or lower yields from a product than what is specified in the Food Buying Guide (FBG). Additionally, an in-house yield study may be used for food items or sizes that are not currently listed in the FBG (e.g. 175 count apples). In-house Yield Study Procedures are available on the INSLP Menu Planning webpage (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/in-house-yield-study-procedures.pdf; https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/menu-planning#ihy).

Cycle Menus

Using a cycle menu may ease the burden of menu planning, once the cycle has been set, and help ensure meal pattern requirements are met if served as planned. Cycle menus may also aid in purchasing if production records are reviewed and analyzed to forecast meal counts based on historical data.

When using a cycle menu, production records can be partially completed including menu items, crediting information, and serving sizes. Photocopies can be made, or if production records are managed electronically, they can be printed and the remaining information can be completed during production and after meal service.

For samples of cycle menus, refer to the *On, Wisconsin!* Cycle Menus or the *Homegrown Menus* cycle menus created by the School Nutrition Team. These, and other sample menus, are available on the <u>Cycle Menu Resources</u> webpage (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/menu-planning/cycle-menu).

Findings and Corrective Action Needed for Meal Pattern and Nutritional Quality:

☐ Finding #1: Documentation provided for the week of review demonstrated a daily grain shortage at lunch. The K-8 daily grain requirement is 1.00 ounce equivalent (oz eq).

A chef salad is offered as an alternate entrée option daily. The chef salad includes croutons. When there is a grain offered on the menu that is not part of a combination food, a food with both meat/meat alternate and grain, students are able to select this grain and croutons as part of the chef salad alternate entrée option. On Wednesday during the week of review, pizza dippers were offered as the main entrée, so the students who selected the chef salad could only select croutons (0.75 oz eq grain), leading to a daily grain shortage.

Please note, croutons were credited as part of the grain component for each entrée option every day during the week of review because they are available to all students on the salad bar. Because most students do not select croutons unless they select the chef salad, it is recommended that the daily and weekly grain requirements be evaluated for the main entrée and PB&J with cheese stick entrée without the croutons to ensure students are receiving the nutrients they need.

Corrective Action Needed: Submit a statement indicating how the daily grain requirement will be met for the week of review and your plan for ensuring the requirement is met for future service weeks. Please include respective portion sizes, labels, recipes, and crediting documentation, if applicable. *Please note, repeat violations of a daily grain shortage during subsequent Administrative Reviews may result in fiscal action.*

☐ Finding #2: Documentation provided for the week of review demonstrated a weekly meat/meat alternate (M/MA) shortage at lunch. The K-8 weekly M/MA requirement is 9.00 oz eq.

One of the daily alternate entrée options is a half PB&J (0.50 oz eq M/MA) and cheese stick (1.00 oz eq M/MA) that includes croutons and another grain option that is part of the main entrée option, as explained in *Finding #1*. During the week of review, the PB&J and cheese stick entrée option was the option with the least amount of M/MA offered every day of the week. Over the course of the week, the minimum amount of M/MA offered was 7.50 oz eq.

Corrective Action Needed: Submit a statement indicating how the weekly M/MA requirement will be met for the week of review and your plan for ensuring the requirement is met for future service weeks. Please include respective portion sizes, labels, recipes, and crediting documentation, if applicable.

Please note, repeat violations of a weekly meat/meat alternate shortage during subsequent Administrative Reviews may result in fiscal action.

☐ Finding #3: Documentation provided for the week of review indicated that 100 percent of the grains offered at lunch were not whole grain-rich (WGR). The tortilla chips offered on Tuesday and Thursday were not WGR.

It is required that 100 percent of grains offered at lunch be WGR. Grains that are not WGR cannot be credited toward daily or weekly WGR requirements. Foods that meet the WGR criteria for the Child Nutrition Programs contain at least 50 percent whole grain. The remaining 50 percent or less of grains, if any, must be enriched. USDA has a very thorough Whole Grain Resource that provides tools and tips for identifying WGR products (https://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/WholeGrainResource.pdf).

Corrective Action Needed: Submit a statement indicating how the WGR requirement at lunch for the week of review will be met and your plan for ensuring the requirement is met for future service weeks. Please include respective portion sizes, labels, recipes, and crediting documentation, if applicable, for the product that will be used instead of the tortilla chips that were offered during the week of review.

☐ Finding #4: While signage is present for lunch, signage does not include the required Offer versus Serve (OVS) statement that students must select ½ cup fruit, vegetable, or combination. Instead, lunch signage explains that one of the three components must be a fruit or vegetable.

Corrective Action Needed: Submit a picture or PDF of new or supplemental signage that has been posted that includes the required OVS statement that students must select ½ cup fruit, vegetable, or combination.

If you are interested in ordering free signage, please visit the <u>Team Nutrition</u> webpage (dpi.wi.gov/team-nutrition) and complete the Resource Order Form.

Examples of signage can be found and printed from our <u>Signage Resources</u> webpage (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/menu-planning/signage).

3. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Nonprofit School Food Service Account

Commendations/Comments/Technical Assistance (TA)/Compliance Reminders

Annual Financial Report (AFR)

- All revenues (reimbursements and student payments) and expenses (including food, labor, equipment, purchased services, and the other category) need to be separated into each program; this will aid the school in calculating its "yearly" reference period for non-program food compliance which is highly recommended.
- The ending balance on June 30 from the previous year needs to be the beginning balance on July 1 for the current year.
- The ending balance, on June 30, can never be a negative balance. A transfer must be made from the non-federal funds to bring the ending balance to \$0.00.
- The school food service fund may not have an ending fund balance in excess of 3 month operating expenses, as this is considered "Excess Cash Balance". While we commend your staff for the fiscal viability of the child nutrition programs, federal regulations limit net cash resources to an amount not to exceed a three month average of operating expenses to remain in compliance with a non-profit status
- These categories of the AFR that should be addressed when tracking revenues and expenditures include:
 - Expenses for paper supplies, chemicals, thermometers, etc., should be reported under "Other".
 Only expenses for edible food items and beverages should be reported under "Food".
 - o "Equipment" should reflect major purchases of equipment. Utensils, pans, smaller equipment such as a cart, etc., should be reported under "Other".
 - Under "Purchases Services" report any time you pay someone for services provides such as equipment repair and health inspections.
 - Under "non-program foods", report the expenses for any food items served to students that are not claimed as part of the reimbursable meal. Revenues and expenses from adult meals, a la carte, and caterings would also be included here.
 - When revenues are recorded from the federal reimbursement payments, make sure that you are recording the full reimbursement based on the printed claim form and not what is actually deposited into your account. As you will note on the claim, there may be money deducted from shipping, handling and processing fees for USDA Foods. The amount deducted from your revenue should be reported as an NSLP food expenditure for private schools and a purchased service for public schools.

Allowable Costs

- The nonprofit school food service account is to be used for the operation of the school meal program including food, supplies, equipment and personnel.
- The nonprofit school food service account may not be used to purchase land and/or buildings unless approved by FNS.
- Allowable costs are defined in 2 CFR 200 Subpart E and should be necessary, reasonable and allocable. More information on allowable costs can be found within the Indirect Costs guidance (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/financial).
- Bad debt is an unallowable expense to the food service program. A transfer must be made from non-federal funds to cover student account write-offs. SP23-2017 Unpaid Meal Charges guidance Q & A may be found our Financial Management webpage (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/financial).

Unpaid Meal Charge Policy

• USDA Policy Memorandum SP 46-2016 requires all SFAs operating federal school meal programs to

have a written and clearly communicated policy that addresses unpaid meal charges. For a snap-shot on what the policy must include, see the Unpaid Meal Charges In a "Nutshell" (http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/unpaid-meal-charges-nutshell.pdf). For a more comprehensive overview, see SP 23-2017: Unpaid Meal Charges Guidance https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/sp-23-2017.pdf

- Best Practices
- Local meal charge policy checklist
- o Sample outstanding balance letter
- Sample robo-call script
- Funds in student meal accounts are considered a liability until a meal is purchased. When the funds are left "unclaimed", they cannot be used to offset another student's negative account, unless *paid* households have *chosen to donate* those funds to the school food service account. All funds left in any student meal account which cannot be contacted must be turned over to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) as unclaimed property. The DOR has rules concerning <u>unclaimed property</u> that must be followed (https://www.revenue.wi.gov/DOR%20Publications/pb82.pdf).

Revenue from Non-program Foods

Commendations/Comments/Technical Assistance (TA)/Compliance Reminders

- Non-program foods include: Adult Meals, A la Carte, Extra Entrees, Extra Milk (for cold lunch or milk break), Vended Meals (meals sold to other agencies), Catered Meals, and Food Service operated Vending Machines.
- All costs associated with non-program foods, including food, labor, equipment, and purchased services
 must be covered by revenues received from the sale of those foods. Non-program foods may not be
 supported by reimbursable meals or have a non-program foods loss absorbed by the food service
 account. Thus non-program foods may never run in the negative unless non-federal funds are
 transferred into the food service fund to cover the deficit.
- Non-program Food costs and revenues must be separated from Program food costs and revenues.
- Since non-program foods include Adult Meals and extra milk, these expenses and revenues must be separated from Program foods.
- The USDA Non-program Revenue Tool must be completed yearly, at a minimum. The DPI
 Nonprogram Food Revenue Tool/Calculator
 located on our website feeds into the USDA tool and aids in calculating prices of non-program foods and meeting the USDA non-program food regulation (http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/xls/non-program-food-price-calculator.xlsx).

$$\frac{\textit{Nonprogram food revenue}}{\textit{Total program and nonprogram revenue}} \geq \frac{\textit{Total nonprogram food costs}}{\textit{Total program and nonprogram food costs}}$$

 SFAs that sell <u>only</u> non-program milk and adult meals as non-program foods are <u>exempt</u> from completing the USDA Non-program Food Revenue tool (http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/exceptions-nonprogram-revenue.pdf).

Adult Meals

• Adult meals are considered non-program foods. Food service programs must price adult meals above

- the overall cost of the meals. Since adult meal costs can be difficult to calculate, SFAs must at a minimum, follow the **minimum** pricing guidelines in Food Nutrition Services Instruction 782-5.
- A <u>Wisconsin Adult Meal Pricing Worksheet</u> has been developed to assist the SFA in pricing adult meals (http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/doc/wisconsin-adult-meal-pricing-guide.doc).

Findings and Corrective Action Needed: Revenue from Non-program Foods

☐ **Finding**: The Non-program Foods Revenue Tool has not been completed for the current school year. Technical assistance was provided regarding the two types of tools the school can use to meet this requirement.

Corrective Action Needed: Please submit a copy of the non-program food revenue tool. If the SFA decides to discontinue selling snacks then the tool is not required to be run and a statement of this decision would need to be submitted.

Indirect Costs

Commendations/Comments/Technical Assistance (TA)/Compliance Reminders

- For both public and private schools in Wisconsin, any costs assessed to foodservice must be based on documented and justifiable costs for each school building as they pertain to your school situation rather than an indirect cost rate. This may include utilities, rent, printing and mailing services, administrative oversight, etc.
- Allowable Expenditures assessed to the food service fund must be supported with documentation for items such as gas, electricity, waste removal, fuel, water, etc. for the school district. Examples of supporting documentation for costs assessed to food service fund could include:
 - Rent consultation with knowledgeable resource person on appropriate charges per facility (i.e., local reality broker who has knowledge of current rates for rent of similar facilities).
 - o Utility charges separately metered or current usage study by the local utility company.
 - Labor expenditures based on actual amount of time worked specifically for the purpose of school food service times the employee's wages and benefits.
 - Printing/publishing documentation of actual costs or documentation to support how these costs were prorated from the district's total costs, based on volume.
 - Waste disposal services, extermination services, and laundry services documentation of actual costs or documentation to support how these costs were prorated from the district's total.

Findings and Corrective Action Needed: Indirect Costs

☐ Finding: The finding was that there a rental charge of a flat rate of 15.00 is being charged each day to the food service lunch program this year. Currently 1200.00 has been charged. This is not allowable as the kitchen is part of the school building. It was mentioned this rental rate was applied to cover services such as custodial and secretarial services for the food service program. Additionally, it included trash dumpster and pest control charges.

Corrective Action Needed: Please stop immediately charging this rate of 15.00 a day (rental charge) as this was amount the SFA used to cover items such as trash, pest control and custodial/secretarial services.

In order to charge for trash dumpster services, pest control and custodial/secretary services please conduct a trash study, time study for custodial/secretarial services and determine some sort of percentage or separate bill for pest control. Please submit appropriate documentation for these items. There may be a payback required to the food service fund regarding the rental charge. This will be determined once any studies are submitted back.

4. GENERAL PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

Civil Rights

Commendations/Comments/Technical Assistance (TA)/Compliance Reminders

Nondiscrimination Statement

When including the <u>non-discrimination statement</u> on letters, menus, website, and other documents used to convey program information, it is necessary to use the current statement which was updated in 2015 (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/civil-rights).
 However, when space is very limited, such as on the printed menus or low balance notices, the abbreviated statement may be used, "This institution is an equal opportunity provider." Either of these statements must be in the same size font as the other text in the document.

And Justice for All Poster

• "And Justice for All" posters need to be posted in public view where the program is offered.

Civil Rights Training

- Civil rights training must be conducted on a yearly basis for all staff and volunteers who administer any portion of a school nutrition program.
- Civil rights training had been attended by all staff in the schools and documentation was available for review.

Civil Rights Self-Compliance Form

• The Civil Rights Self-Evaluation Compliance form is required to be completed by October 31 annually.

Special Dietary Needs

- All food substitutions made outside of the meal pattern requirements must be supported by a signed medical statement from a licensed medical professional. SFAs may use the <u>prototype Medical Statement</u> for Special Dietary Needs posted on the DPI website, which is also available in Spanish and Hmong (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/special-dietary-needs). Meals served to students with special dietary needs with the signed medical statement do not need to meet meal pattern requirements. Additional information on <u>special dietary needs</u> can be found on the DPI School Nutrition Team website (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/special-dietary-needs). This <u>flow chart</u> gives guidance on special dietary needs, as well (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/sdn-flowchart.pdf)
- School food service staff may make food substitutions, at their discretion, to accommodate children
 without a signed medical statement from a licensed medical practitioner. It is highly recommended
 that the SFA have a completed medical statement on file from a medical authority (which could be the
 school nurse) to support the request. These accommodations made for students must meet the USDA
 meal pattern requirements in order for the meals to be reimbursable. It is recommended that the SFA

- develop a policy for handling these types of accommodations to ensure that requests are equitable for everyone.
- Juice may not be substituted for fluid milk unless juice is specified as a substitution on a medical statement signed by a licensed medical practitioner. Water is available to all students, but an SFA may choose to offer lactose free milk or provide a fluid milk substitute that meets the nutritional requirements set forth by USDA. Nutrition information for a fluid milk substitute the SFA wishes to provide for students, must be approved by the SNT office. For more information on <u>fluid milk substitutes</u>, please see our Special Dietary Needs webpage (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/special-dietary-needs).
- Fluid milk substitution rules apply to all federal school nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast, and After School Snack Program, but do not apply to the Wisconsin School Day Milk Program. WSDMP allows juice as a milk substitution and is reimbursable. SFAs may offer lactose-free milk to children who have lactose intolerance without requiring DPI preapproval for use.

Overt Identification

All SFAs should have procedures (written procedures preferred) in place for handling civil rights complaints in regards to discrimination in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. A SFA may always attempt to resolve a situation that is occurring in real time. However, if an individual states that they wish to file a civil rights complaint, the SFA must provide them with the information necessary to do so and not impede an individual's right to file. Please refer to the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form for assistance in filing these complaints (https://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/Complain_combined_6_8_12.pdf).

Findings and Corrective Action Needed: Civil Rights

Finding: The finding was that the civil rights statement was not on the menu or in the student
handbook that references the lunch program.

Corrective Action Required: Please submit a statement how the handbook will be corrected in the future. Please submit a copy of an updated menu with the non-discrimination statement on it.

Local Wellness Policy

Commendations/Comments/Technical Assistance (TA)/Compliance Reminders

The local wellness policy requirement was established by the Child Nutrition and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Reauthorization Act of 2004 and further strengthened by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA) of 2010.

At a minimum, SFAs must permit participation by the general public and the school community including parents, students, and representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, and school administrators in the wellness policy process. In addition, SFAs must designate one or more school officials to ensure the SFA complies with the policy.

Content of the Wellness Policy

The final Local School Wellness Policy Implementation Under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 rule requires the SFA to retain basic records demonstrating compliance with the local school wellness (LWP) requirements. If no LWP has been developed, the SFA must establish a written policy. For assistance in

the creation of a LWP, SFAs are encouraged to utilize the <u>Wisconsin Wellness: Putting Policy into Practice-School Wellness Policy Toolkit</u> (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/wellness-policy/toolkit). At a minimum the wellness policy must include:

- Nutrition education (Recommended goals related to nutrition education include integrating into other core subjects or offering as a stand-alone course for all grade levels.)
- Nutrition promotion (At a minimum SFAs must review smarter lunchroom tools and strategies. Additional promotional activities include contests, surveys, food demonstrations, taste testing, and farm to school programming.)
- Physical activity (Recommended that SFAs offer time for students to meet the 60 minute goal, this
 could include recess, classroom physical activity breaks, and opportunities for physical activity
 before and after school.)
- Guidelines for all foods and beverages sold on the school campus during the school day (The LWP must contain guidelines for Federal school meal requirements and competitive food standards [Smart Snacks]).
- Guidelines for all foods and beverages provided on the school campus during the school day (SFAs must develop standards for foods provided to students, this includes classroom parties, schools celebrations, food offered as rewards/incentives.)
- Guidelines for food and beverage marketing (At a minimum, SFAs must restrict marketing to food and beverages that meet competitive food standards on the school campus during the school day.)
- Public involvement and committee leadership (SFAs must invite and allow for a diverse group of stakeholders to participate in the development, implantation, review, and updating of the LWP.
 SFAs must also identify the official responsible for oversight of the LWP to ensure school compliance.)
- Implementation, assessment and update of policy (At a minimum, SFAs must notify the public about the content, implementation of, and updates to the LWP. SFAs must complete a triennial assessment to evaluate compliance with the LWP, how the LWP compares to model wellness policies, and progress made in attaining the goals of the LWP).

Resources:

- Please refer to the USDA <u>summary of the requirements</u> for local school wellness policies (http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/tn/LWPsummary_finalrule.pdf).
- USDA Food and Nutrition Service has information on the <u>local school wellness policy</u> process and wellness policy elements (https://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/school-wellness-resources).
- Wisconsin Team Nutrition has several <u>wellness policy resources</u> available, including a toolkit, a
 wellness policy builder, and wellness policy report card (http://dpi.wi.gov/schoolnutrition/wellness-policy).

Findings and Corrective Action Needed: Local Wellness Policy

☐ **Finding:** SFA LWP <u>meets some but not all</u> requirements as stipulated above, In addition, the opportunity to be part of the wellness committee was not offered to the public.

Corrective Action Required: Please provide a timeline for updating your policy to become compliant with the final rule and how you will invite the public to participate on a wellness committee. Please include a statement of your understanding regarding the triennial assessment to evaluate compliance with the LWP and attaining the goals listed in the policy.

Smart Snacks in Schools

Commendations/Comments/Technical Assistance (TA)/Compliance Reminders

Final Rule

The Smart Snacks Final Rule, published in the Federal Register on July 29, 2016, finalized science-based nutrition guidelines for competitive foods sold on the school campus during the school day. Foods and beverages sold in schools must meet both the general standards and nutrient standards unless the sales qualify for an exemption. The school day is defined as midnight until 30 minutes after the instructional day. More information can be found on the DPI SNT Smart Snacks webpage (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/smart-snacks).

Findings and Corrective Action Needed for Smart Snacks:

☐ Finding #1: The Food Service Director reported selling baked goods a la carte twice this school year after being part of the reimbursable meal the day prior. Since baked goods do not meet the Smart Snacks definition of an entrée, as explained in the Smart Snacks in a Nutshell handout, baked goods must be evaluated against the Smart Snacks standards for a snack instead of being counted as part of an exempt entrée (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/smart-snacks-in-a-nutshell.pdf).

For assistance with evaluating recipes against the Smart Snacks nutrient standards, the <u>Smart Snacks</u> <u>Recipe Analyzer Tool</u> can be used (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/xls/smart-snacks-recipe-analyzer.xlsx).

Corrective Action Needed: Submit a statement indicating understanding that foods and beverages sold to students during the school day must meet both the general and nutrient Smart Snacks standards, unless they qualify for an exemption.

Professional Standards

Commendations/Comments/Technical Assistance (TA)/Compliance Reminders

- The Professional Standards regulations in 7 CFR 210.30 established hiring standards for new school nutrition program directors, hired on or after July 1, 2015, that manage and operate the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. In addition, the regulations established annual training standards for all school nutrition program directors, managers, and staff which must be tracked.
- Each SFA must designate at least one staff member as a program "director". A program "director" is the person designated to perform or oversee the majority of the program duties such as sanitation, food safety, nutrition and menu planning, food production, procurement, financial management, record keeping, customer service, nutrition education, and general day-to-day program management.
- The <u>hiring standards for SFA directors</u> are based on the size of the SFA and includes education, school
 nutrition experience and food safety training requirements
 (http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-: nutrition/pdf/professional-standards-hiring-chartby-district-size.pdf).
- Per SP 38-2016, any School Food Service Director hired after July 1, 2015 that does not meet the
 minimum education requirements cannot use the nonprofit school food service account to pay their
 salary; this would be an unallowable cost and the SFA's general fund may be used to pay the salary of a
 new director who is actively pursuing the minimum education requirements.

Professional Standards: Training Requirements

- Annual training must be job-specific and intended to help employees perform their duties well. The
 required annual training hours vary according to the employee's role in the management and
 operation of the school nutrition program.
- Trainings can be provided in a variety of formats (online, in person, webinars) and through various providers (DPI, USDA, in-house, etc.).
- SFAs should clearly document all required training information and maintain that file including the name of staff person, date hired, title/position, brief list of core duties/responsibilities, status (full, part-time, substitute, volunteer, etc.), professional standards position (director, manager or staff). Learning codes are not required, but encouraged. A template tracking tool is posted to our Professional Standards webpage (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/training/professional-standards).

Annual Training Requirements for All Staff

- Directors: 12 hours
- Managers: 10 hours
- Other Staff (20 hours or more per week): 6 hours
- Part Time Staff (under 20 hours per week): 4 hours
- If hired January 1 or later, only half of the training hours are required during the first school year of employment.

Findings and Corrective Action: Professional Standards

☐ **Finding:** Training for the 25 volunteers and student workers are not being tracked on a tracking tool.

Corrective Action Needed: Please submit a statement on how these hours will be tracked for the volunteers and student workers.

Water

Commendations/Comments/Technical Assistance (TA)/Compliance Reminders

Water is required to be available at no charge to students during the lunch and breakfast meal services. Schools can provide free water in a variety of ways, such as water pitchers and cups on lunch tables, a water fountain, or a faucet that allows students to fill their own bottles or cups.

For more information and resources on the water requirement, see our <u>Water Availability webpage</u> (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/water-availability).

Food Safety and Storage

Commendations/Comments/Technical Assistance (TA)/Compliance Reminders

<u>A Flash of Food Safety</u> is a video series designed to help school nutrition professionals understand and apply safe food practices (www.fns.usda.gov/ofs/food-safety-flashes). The <u>Office of Food Safety</u> website (www.fns.usda.gov/ofs/food-safety) includes food safety resources.

Food Safety Inspections

• Every school operating USDA School Child Nutrition Programs must have two food safety inspections during each school year: including food safety inspection and a review of the site's Food Safety Plan.

• Food safety inspection reports must be posted in public view. Posting the food safety inspection report in the same location as the "And Justice For All" poster can be a convenient way to have both items publicly visible.

Temperatures

 All cooling equipment must have internal temperatures taken and recorded daily on temperature logs. Posting them directly on the equipment makes recording convenient and a regular part of daily routines.

Food Safety Plans

SFAs are required to update food safety programs based on Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
(HACCP) principles to cover any facility where food is stored, prepared, or served for the purposes of
the NSLP, SBP, or other FNS programs. This means the food safety program should contain standard
operating procedures (SOP) for safe food handling on school buses, in hallways, school courtyards,
kiosks, classrooms, or other locations outside the cafeteria.

Food Employee Reporting Agreements

- All food service employees must have a signed <u>Food Employee Reporting Agreement</u> on file (https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/foodemployeereportingagreementsupplement.pdf).
- Employees must sign a new Food Employee Reporting Agreement form if changes are made to the
 document. While there are no requirements as to how frequently food service employees must sign a
 Food Employee Reporting Agreement form, it is the best practice for each food service employee to
 annually review and sign an agreement to reinforce the information contained in the document.

Storage

• SFAs are required to ensure that facilities for the handling, storage, and distribution of purchased and donated foods are properly safeguarded against theft, spoilage, and other loss (7 CFR 210.13(d)).

Buy American

Commendations/Comments/Technical Assistance (TA)/Compliance Reminders

The USDA requires that a SFA purchase, to the maximum extent practicable, domestic commodities or products. Using food products from local sources supports the local economy, small local farmers, and provides healthy choices for children in the School Meal Programs. The Buy American provision is required whether food products are purchased by SFAs or entities that are purchasing on their behalf.

The Buy American provision should be included in solicitations, contracts, and product specifications. A reply offer to comply with Buy American terms in a solicitation ensures contractors are aware of Buy American requirements. Furthermore, bidder assurance of the Buy American provision ensures that the bidder is responsive and responsible to the solicitation. SFAs must monitor contractor performance, to ensure that contractors perform in accordance with the terms, conditions, and specifications of their contracts or purchase orders.

Technical Assistance:

Non-Compliant Products Found Onsite

The following products identified in St. Peters Lutheran School's storage did not have proper labeling to identify the country of origin:

- Cottage cheese- distributed
- Butter- distributed
- Cheddar- distributed
- Ranch-distributed
- Salad dressing- distributed
- Frozen, crispy green beans- IL
- Frozen fruit juice- NJ
- Frozen pancakes- distributed
- Canned, sliced potatoes- distributed
- Black pepper- distributed

In USDA Memo SP 38 -2017, any product that does not identify the country of origin requires certification from the manufacturer or distributor. Work with your distributor to move toward compliance with these and similarly labeled products.

Achieving Buy American Compliance

- If no country of origin is identified on the label, the SFA must get certification from the distributor or supplier stating, "We certify that (insert product name) was processed in the U.S. and contains over 51 percent of its agricultural food component, by weight or volume, from the U.S." This can be accepted in an email.
- Labels should indicate if the product is grown, processed, and packaged in the continental U.S. or any U.S. Territory. If the label indicates that the product is distributed or packed in the U.S, but the country of origin is not listed, this product requires the distributor's certification as mentioned above.
- Any substitution of a non-domestic product for a domestic product (which was originally a part of the RFP), must be approved, in writing, by the food service director, prior to the delivery of the product to the school.
- Any non-domestic product delivered to the school, without prior, written approval of the food service director, should be rejected. If non-domestic substitutes that were not pre-approved in writing by the food service director are delivered to and rejected by the school, selected distributor(s) shall be held accountable for all over-claims that result from failure to meet the school's required meal pattern.
- Agricultural products which are processed and produced outside of the U.S. may be accepted with proof from the manufacturer that poor market conditions exist (weather, and/or supply availability of market). This requirement applies to private labels.
- The SFA should maintain written procedures to ensure product received and inventory is compliant with the Buy American Provision procedures. Sample written procurement contract management procedures and Buy American monitoring procedures can be found in the Contract Management chapter of the SNT Procurement Manual (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/procurement/procurement-manual). Additional Buy American monitoring procedures can be found on the Buy American Provision webpage (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/procurement/buy-american).

Findings and Corrective Action Needed for Buy American:

☐ Finding #1: Frozen Brussel sprouts and cinnamon sugar were identified in St. Peters Lutheran School's storage areas as non-domestic. St. Peters Lutheran School does not have Buy American – Non-compliant Lists or SFA equivalent form for these products but did have forms for cucumbers, olive oil, pineapple, and more.

Corrective Action Needed: Provide a copy of the completed form for the non-compliant Brussel sprouts and cinnamon sugar as corrective action. The <u>template form</u> is located on the Buy American Provision webpage (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/doc/buy-american-noncompliantlist.docx). Please continue using Non-compliant Product List forms or SFA equivalent for tracking non-domestic products.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Outreach

Commendations/Comments/Technical Assistance (TA)/Compliance Reminders

Summer Meals

A goal of USDA Child Nutrition Programs is to ensure all students have access to healthy and nutritious meals year-round. USDA requires all SFAs to inform families of where their students can receive a free meal in the summer months. SFAs can inform families of summer meals via the following methods:

- Promotion of the <u>summer meals locator</u> on the DPI Summer Meals webpage (https://dpi.wi.gov/community-nutrition/sfsp/find-summer-meals-site)
- Promotion of calling 211 to locate meals in the area
- Promotion of the ability to text 'food' to 877-877 to locate meals in the area
- Promotion of the USDA <u>Summer Food</u> website (http://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks)

Resources:

- To access an inclusive map of all potential participating sites in your area, see the <u>interactive map</u> on the SFSP website (http://www.fns.usda.gov/capacitybuilder).
- For more information on Summer Feeding option contact:
 Amy J. Kolano, RD, CD, Summer Food Service Program Coordinator
 Phone: 608.266.7124; e-mail: amy.kolano@dpi.wi.gov

Carolyn Stanford Taylor the State Superintendent of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction shares a vision that every student will graduate prepared for college and career. Her goals are for students to have the knowledge, skills, and habits that will allow them to succeed in life after high school. Access to quality nutrition plays a major role in developing those life-long habits.

The School Nutrition Team believes that what school nutrition programs do every day plays a very important part in the success of every child being able to graduate. We all know that well-nourished children are ready to learn. Thank you for all you do to ensure student success.

For more information on this initiative, please visit the Wisconsin DPI Every Child a Graduate webpage (dpi.wi.gov/statesupt/agenda-2017).



With School Nutrition Programs!