# USDA Child Nutrition Programs Administrative Review Summary Report

School Food Authority: St Mary's School Clark Mills Agency Code: 367058

School(s) Reviewed: St. Mary St. Michael Review Date(s): March 13-14, 2019

Date of Exit Conference: March 14, 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 at no charge. Courses cover many areas of the school nutrition programs including administrative responsibilities, program basics, meal pattern requirements and menu planning, financial management, professional standards, meal benefit determination process, procurement, and many other topics. More information along with other upcoming trainings and webinars can be found on the Wisconsin DPI <u>School Nutrition Training</u> webpage (dpi.wi.gov/schoolnutrition/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,
  and communications and marketing. For more information go to the Wisconsin DPI
  School Nutrition Training webpage (dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/training/goaloriented-achievement-learning-skills).
- The US Department of Agriculture has a toolkit of resources to assist schools in meeting the nutrition standards on their <u>Healthier School Day: The School Day Just Got</u> <u>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).
- <u>The Smarter Lunchrooms Movement</u> 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 do 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 (https://www.smarterlunchrooms.org/scorecard-tools/smarter-lunchrooms-strategies#Milk).

## Appreciation/Commendations/Noteworthy Initiatives:

Thank you to the staff at St Mary's School Clark Mills for the courtesies extended to us during the on-site review. Thank you for being available when answering questions and providing 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.

### **REVIEW AREAS**

#### 1. MEAL ACCESS AND REIMBURSEMENT

# **Certification and Benefit Issuance**

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.
- 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 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.

### Household Size Box

• The total household member size box (Step 3G) includes all children and adults in the household and must match the number of names on the application for the 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. 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.

## Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

- 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.
- The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) website offers many other <u>foreign language</u> <u>translations of the Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals</u> (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.

### 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.

#### **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.

### Findings and Corrective Action Needed: Meal access and reimbursement

	<b>Finding:</b> The finding there was not a benefit issuance list available with a list of students who qualified for meal benefits.
	<b>Corrective Action Needed:</b> Please develop a benefit issuance list for students that qualify for meal benefits. Please submit to reviewer. <b>Corrected on-site no further action needed.</b>
	<b>Finding:</b> The finding was that the approval letter used for notification of meal benefits for direct certification was not provided to households who qualified for meal benefits.
	<b>Corrective Action Needed:</b> Please submit a statement of understanding that the food service director understands that an approval notice must be sent out to households who qualify for direct certification meal benefits.
me giv	chnical assistance was provided to remind the SFA that households must be notified of eal benefits either in writing or verbally within 10 operating days when a meal benefit is ven via application. Please consider using the DPI letter template for notifying families of proval or denial of meal benefits.
<u>Co</u>	ommendations/Comments/Technical Assistance/Compliance Reminders
Ve	erification
An ap	ommendations/Comments/Technical Assistance/Compliance Reminders inually schools must verify eligibility of children from a sample of household applications proved for free and reduced priced meal benefits. Verification must be completed by evember 15 of each school year.
	<b>Finding:</b> The finding was that verification was not completed for the current school year. <b>Technical assistance was provided and resources left on-site.</b>

Corrective Action Needed: Please review the verification webpage. Please also review the verification webcast <a href="https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/training/webcasts#verif">https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/training/webcasts#verif</a>. Submit a statement of understanding that verification needs to be completed each school year by November 15. Please describe in a few sentences a summary of how the verification process works. Please include in your summary the following: understanding of the sample size, what letters will be used for verification, what officials are part of the verification process and how you will keep track of the verification process.

### **Meal Counting and Claiming**

## <u>Commendations/Comments/Technical Assistance (TA)/Compliance Reminders</u>

- 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: An edit check was not being utilized to determine the number of reimbursable
meals to claim by eligibility for claim submission. Technical assistance was provided on-
site.

**Corrective Action Needed:** Please move forward and complete an edit check each month before claim submission. Please submit lunch edit check for one month and submit to reviewer.

## 2. MEAL PATTERN AND NUTRITIONAL QUALITY

Thank you to the staff for their warm welcome and cooperation throughout the administrative review. Thank you, also, for all your questions, willingness to learn and quickly implement recommendations and required changes. It has been a pleasure working with your staff.

# <u>Comments/Technical Assistance/Compliance Reminders</u> Week of Review (February 4-8, 2019)

Documentation from the week of review, February 4-8, 2019, was reviewed for meal pattern compliance and the following errors were found with the documentation submitted:

- Weekly grain shortage. Only 6.25 oz eq grain offered; at least 8 oz eq grain must be offered.
- Not all grains WGR. All grains must be whole grain-rich.

### **Production Records**

Production records are required to document that food meeting the meal pattern was served in the appropriate serving sizes. Continue to work with all staff members to record planned usage, actual usage, and leftovers. Thorough, accurate production records aid the menu planner with forecasting, ordering, menu planning, and reducing food waste. Technical assistance was given on including the USDA meal pattern used, offer versus serve, actual milk usage by type, planned portion sizes on salad bar production records. While there is no required production record template, there are some examples that may be used on our <a href="Production Records">Production Records</a> webpage. A copy of the production record requirements ("Must Haves and Nice to Haves" list) can also be found at that link (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/menu-planning/production-records).

#### Offer versus Serve

Food service staff were somewhat unclear about the Offer versus Serve (OVS) requirements for lunch. Although all students observed took a reimbursable meal, it is important for staff to

fully understand the OVS requirements. The <u>Offer Versus Serve Guidance manual</u> (the school year 1516 is the most recent) and the <u>Offer Versus Serve Webcast</u> can be used as training resources (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/offer-versus-serve-guidance-manual.pdf, https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/training/webcasts).

In summary for OVS, the school must OFFER the required portions of fruit, vegetable, grain, meat/meat alternate, and milk at each meal at lunch. From these offering, students must SELECT at least three full, different, food components, one of which is ½ cup fruit and/or vegetable. As a reminder, students do not have to take milk.

### **Printed Menu**

The printed menu should list all components included with the reimbursable meal. Currently, milk is not listed on the menu. It may either be listed daily or may be listed in one place on the menu and include a statement that says that a variety of milk is offered daily as part of the reimbursable meal.

#### Salad Bar

- Reviewers highly encourage obtaining a salad bar for meal service use. Currently, tables are being used to serve fruits, vegetables and condiments; however, a sneeze guard is highly encouraged for food safety. Reviewers encourage the school to work with any groups interested in donating funds to the food service program to obtain a food service appropriate salad bar.
- Produce on a garden bar can credit toward the meal pattern each day that it is offered to students (e.g., if black beans are offered daily with a planned serving size of 1/8 cup, then 5/8 cup has been offered in total each week and meets the minimum ½ cup requirement of beans/peas). Even with garden bars, the menu planner must plan a specific portion size that he or she intends students to take. If the fruits or vegetables on the garden bar are used to meet the weekly requirements, portion sizes of at least 1/8 cup each should be communicated to students with signage. This encourages students to take the planned amount, and ensures the amount needed for a reimbursable meal is selected. Keep in mind that raw, leafy green vegetables (spinach, romaine, lettuce, etc.) credit as ½ of the volume served.
- A <u>Vegetable Subgroups</u> handout is also available and identifies common vegetables with their respective subgroups (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/vegetable-subgroups.pdf).
- Signage on a salad or garden bar can assist students in recognizing appropriate portion sizes. The School Nutrition Team (SNT) has a <u>Salad Bar Signage Template</u> with pictures that can be posted on a salad or garden bar (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/doc/salad-bar-signagetemplate.docx).
- Serving utensils should be standardized. Look for smaller spoodles that can be used in order to communicate proper portion sizes to students.
- Production records must be kept for a garden or salad bar. Production record templates for garden bars and salad bars are available on the <u>Production Records</u> webpage, under the Other Resources heading (https://dpi.wi.gov/schoolnutrition/national-school-lunch-program/menu-planning/production-records).

• Peanut butter, bread and jelly is currently available to students on a condiment table. These food items contribute to the dietary specifications. Technical assistance was provided to remove the peanut butter and bread from the condiment table, as peanut butter and can be a significant source of calories and saturated fat. Thank you to the food service director for removing the peanut butter and bread from the following day's meal service.

### Whole Grain-Rich

The corn chips, sub bun and hamburger buns do not meet the criteria to be considered whole grain-rich (WGR) and therefore, cannot be credited towards daily or weekly whole grain-rich requirements. Ensure the ingredient list states **whole** corn or **whole** wheat as the first ingredient in order to be considered whole grain-rich.

Foods that meet the whole grain-rich (WGR) criteria for the school meal programs contain at least 50 percent whole grain. The remaining 50 percent or less of grains, if any, must be enriched. Grains that are not whole grain-rich cannot be credited toward the grain component. USDA has a very thorough <a href="Whole Grain Resource">Whole Grain Resource</a> that provides tools and tips for identifying whole grain-rich products (https://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/WholeGrainResource.pdf).

The terms "wheat" or "made with whole grains" on a product label do not necessarily mean that a product is whole grain-rich. Always check the ingredient list to confirm the first ingredient is a whole grain (and any other grain ingredients in the list are enriched, if not whole), which qualifies the product as whole grain-rich. Alternatively, crediting documentation in the form of a product formulation statement (PFS) may show that the combined weight of multiple whole grain ingredients exceeds the weight of the enriched grain ingredients, making the product whole grain-rich. Note: a recipe that includes 50 percent whole grain and 50 percent enriched grain by weight is considered whole grain-rich.

## Crediting

SFAs are required to document how foods offered credit towards weekly meal pattern requirements.

The <u>USDA Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs</u> contains yield and crediting information for foods with a standard of identity (in large part, unprocessed foods). Fruits, vegetables, and unprocessed grains, meat/meat alternates, and dairy can be credited using the Food Buying Guide (FBG). After logging in to the FBG, click on "food items search" and type in a specific food in the "keywords" search box. Many different options may appear. Find the one that exactly matches your product and click on it for more information (e.g. Peaches, canned, diced, light syrup pack). After clicking, you will be able to view the purchase unit, servings per purchase unit of the Edible Portion (EP), serving size per meal contribution, purchase units for 100 servings, and any additional information about the product.

Most fruits and vegetables credit by volume served (e.g.,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup peaches, drained will credit  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup fruit) and the FBG will note if the crediting is different based on volume served (e.g., one medium banana credits  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup fruit). Most meat/meat alternates and grains credit by weight

(i.e., 2 ounces of cooked, plain chicken breast credit 2.0 oz eq meat/meat alternate; 1 ounce brown rice credits 1.0 oz eq grain). **If the product is not listed in the FBG, additional crediting documentation is required.** (https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-for-child-nutrition-programs).

Any processed product that is not listed in the USDA Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs requires a current Child Nutrition (CN) label or a detailed product formulation statement (PFS) to credit toward the meal pattern. A complete PFS must be directly from the manufacturer and include the product name and number; weights of raw and cooked ingredients; portion size; statement of contribution to meal pattern requirements; and an original signature from the manufacturer certifying that the information is correct. Documentation should be printed on company letterhead and signed by an appropriate person (e.g., a quality assurance agent or registered dietitian, rather than a salesperson).

If a processed item does not have a valid CN label or PFS and cannot be found in the USDA Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs, it may not be credited when served as part of the USDA School Meal Programs. Additionally, remember to collect new product labels annually. Update records when new products are purchased and when product formulations change throughout the school year as well. More information about crediting documentation can be found on the <a href="NSLP Menu Planning">NSLP Menu Planning</a> webpage, under the Child Nutrition Labels and Product Formulation Statements heading (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/menu-planning#cnpfs).

## **Training**

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) School Nutrition Team (SNT) conducts School Nutrition Skills Development Courses (SNSDC) each summer in various locations around the state. Travel and meal expenses are allowable food service expenses and may be reimbursed through the school's nonprofit food service fund. Courses such as Meal Pattern: The Whole Enchilada and Offer versus Serve (OVS) are recommended for lead workers and menu planners from each site. Information, including dates and locations, will be posted on the SNT <a href="Training">Training</a> webpage as they are scheduled (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/training).

Additionally, there are <u>webcasts</u> posted to our website on a variety of topics relating to school nutrition.

### **Standardized Recipes**

Standardized recipes are required for all menu items that have more than one ingredient (e.g., grilled cheese, peanut butter and jelly sandwich). All standardized recipes must include detailed information about the specific ingredients, equipment, and procedures used to prepare the recipes. A standardized recipe has been tried, tested, evaluated, and adapted for use by your foodservice operation. It produces a consistent quality and yield every time when the exact procedures, equipment, and ingredients are used, which is crucial for crediting school food service recipes.

Recipes should be standardized to your kitchen to reflect the products and practices that are used in your kitchen. This same process must be done to standardize USDA quantity recipes,

especially when substitutions are made. Instructions for standardizing recipes and recipe templates can be found on the <u>Standardized Recipes</u> webpage (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/menu-planning/recipes).

For more recipe ideas, refer to <u>USDA's What's Cooking? Recipes</u> that include nutritional and crediting information. They are a great resource to use in USDA School Meals Programs for cooking healthy and tasty recipes. Note: even though USDA refers to these as standardized recipes, they are in fact quantity recipes. Quantity recipes will only be standardized once they have been tried, tested, and adapted to your food service operation. (https://whatscooking.fns.usda.gov/).

We also encourage viewing the webcast, <u>What's the Yield with Standardized Recipes?</u>, which guides the viewer through the recipe standardization process (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/training/webcasts#sr).

The following recipes were either missing or not standardized to your kitchen. Please create and/or update the recipes in use.

- Chili
- Egg salad
- Tuna salad

## **Bagged Lunches for Field Trips**

If you offer a bagged lunch when students go on a field trip the students must be offered lunches that meet daily meal pattern requirements. Specific procedures must be followed, including maintaining the temperature of time/temperature control for safety (TCS) food, establishing a way to collect meal payments, and obtaining a count by eligibility category. If your school implements Offer versus Serve (OVS), OVS must be implemented, to the extent possible, during field trip meals as well. Allowing students to turn down at least one component meets the requirement of OVS. For example, you may offer the grain, meat/meat alternate, and vegetable together in a bag, then allow students to select from or turn down multiple fruit choices and at least two milk types. For more information, please reference the Meals on Field Trips overview (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/field-trip-meals-overview.pdf).

## Pre-Kindergarten students/CACFP

The pre-kindergarten students are comingled with the other age/grade groups. It is appropriate for all students to be served the K-8 meal pattern.

The updated Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) meal pattern was implemented on October 1, 2017, replacing the previous meal pattern options for SFAs serving infants and children aged 1-5 and not yet in kindergarten. The meal pattern requirements were updated to better align with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, as required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. The changes were also based on scientific recommendations from the National Academy of Medicine and stakeholder input. Meals served under the updated CACFP meal pattern include a greater variety of vegetables and fruits, more whole grains, and

less added sugar. More information regarding the updated CACFP meal pattern is available on the <u>Infants and Preschool in NSLP and SBP</u> webpage (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/infants-and-preschool).

<u>Findin</u>	gs and Corrective Action Needed: Meal Pattern and Nutritional Quality
	ling #1: Weekly grain shortage in the week of review.  Corrective Action Needed: State what will be done to the week of review so that at least 8 oz eq grain is offered to students.
	<b>ling #2:</b> Salad bar production records missing planned serving sizes. <b>Corrective Action Needed:</b> Submit an updated salad bar template and send in one week of completed salad bar production records, including planned serving sizes for all foods offered. Although not required, DPI's <u>Salad Bar Production Records</u> or <u>Garden Bar Production Records</u> may be used.
	<ul> <li>Ling #3: Extra training required on OVS</li> <li>Corrective Action Needed: Have staff responsible for determining reimbursable meals attend a training on OVS. Please watch the following webcasts and submit a log that states the name of the webcast, the date it was viewed and include the name(s) and signature(s) of those in attendance.</li> <li>Offer versus Serve webcast (30 min)</li> <li>Meal or No Meal: Offer versus Serve Lesson and Game (30 min)</li> </ul>
	ling #4: Milk not listed on the printed menu  Corrective Action Needed: Add milk to your monthly menu and submit a copy for corrective action.
	ling #5: Corn chips, sub bun and hamburger buns are not whole grain-rich.  Corrective Action Needed: Find new, whole grain-rich versions of the above mentioned products and submit nutrition facts labels, ingredient lists and recipes, if applicable.
meat/r	ling #6: Additional training required for the menu planner on crediting grains and meat alternates towards the meal pattern.  Corrective Action Needed: Please watch the following webcasts and submit a log that states the name of the webcast, the date it was viewed and include your signature.  Grains (21 minutes)  Meat/Meat Alternate (20 minutes)

☐ Finding #7: Acceptable crediting documentation was not available for the Idahoan Real Scalloped Casserole. Processed foods that are not listed in the Food Buying Guide (FBG) must be accompanied by a Product Formulation Statement (PFS) or Child Nutrition (CN) label to

sufficiently document meal component crediting.

**Corrective Action Needed:** Submit acceptable crediting documentation for the Idahoan Real Scalloped Casserole.

☐ Finding #8: Standardized recipes were either missing or not standardized.

Corrective Action Needed: Please create and/or update the following recipes in use to be standardized to your operation. Submit as corrective action.

- Chili
- Egg salad
- Tuna salad

Once the Public Health Nutritionist has all crediting documentation and updated standardized recipes for the week of review, it can be analyzed to determine if the meal patterns for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program are being met. Until that time, the review cannot be closed. Please be aware that the possibility to conduct a weighted nutrient analysis exists if substantial errors are found. Additional errors may require additional corrective action and may also be subject to fiscal action.

### 3. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### Nonprofit School Food Service Account

## Commendations/Comments/Technical Assistance/Compliance Reminders

- 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 nonprogram 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".
- -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".
  - "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 <u>Indirect Costs</u>
  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. <u>SP23-2017 Unpaid Meal</u> <u>Charges guidance Q & A</u> 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 <u>Unpaid Meal Charges In a "Nutshell"</u> (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: <u>Unpaid Meal Charges Guidance</u> https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/sp-23-2017.pdf
  - Best Practices
  - Local meal charge policy checklist
  - 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 unclaimed property that must be followed (https://www.revenue.wi.gov/DOR%20Publications/pb82.pdf).

Findings and Corrective Action Needed: Nonprofit School Food Service Account

☐ **Finding:** The finding was that the extra milk for cold lunches and morning milk break and also adult meals were not broke out into the non-program food section for revenue and expenses in the annual financial report.

**Corrective Action Needed:** Please submit a statement of understanding that moving forward that extra milk, morning milk and adult meals will be broke out for the annual financial report.

## **Indirect Costs**

## **Commendations/C**omments/Technical Assistance (TA)/Compliance Reminders

- DPI does not allow the annual assigned indirect cost rate to be applied to Fund 50
  (Foodservice account within WUFAR). 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).
  - 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.

## **Revenue from Non-program Foods**

### Commendations/Comments/Technical Assistance/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.
- 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 <u>minimum</u> 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).
- Nonprogram Foods Revenue Rule SP-20-2016
   (http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/sp-20-2016.pdf)
- Nonprogram Foods In a "Nutshell" (http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/nonprogram-foods-in-a-nutshell.pdf)

### 4. GENERAL PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

## **Civil Rights**

### Commendations/Comments/Technical Assistance/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-schoollunch-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 <u>Civil Rights Self-Evaluation Compliance</u> form is required to be completed by October 31 annually. Technical assistance was required, as the form had not been completed by October 1.

### **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
  prototype Medical Statement for Special Dietary Needs posted on the DPI website, which
  is also available in Spanish and Hmong (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-schoollunch-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/specialdietary-needs).

### **Overt Identification**

• The meal counting system must prevent overt identification of students receiving free and reduced price benefits. Technical assistance was provided.

### Processes for complaints

- 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 <u>USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form</u> for assistance in filing these complaints (https://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/Complain\_combined\_6\_8\_12.pd f).

### **Findings and Corrective Action Needed: Civil Rights**

☐ **Finding:** The finding was that civil rights training had not been completed for this current school year for those involved in the food service program.

**Corrective Action Needed:** Please have those persons involved in the food service program review the civil rights power point and sign the training roster. Please submit the signed training roster.

☐ **Finding:** The finding was that the roster used for checking off students at the point of service showed students who qualified as free.

**Corrective Action Needed:** Please correct the roster so as not to identify students that qualify for meal benefits. **Corrected on-site no further action needed.** 

### **Local Wellness Policy**

### Commendations/Comments/Technical Assistance/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 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

## Wisconsin Wellness: Putting Policy into Practice - School Wellness Policy Toolkit

(https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/wellness-policy)

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/school-nutrition/wellness-policy).

### Findings and Corrective Action Needed: Local Wellness Policy

□ Finding: SFA LWP meets some but not all requirements as stipulated above. The SFA did not have a wellness committee made up of various stakeholders from the community. There was no annual notification to the public about the ability to participate on the committee.

Corrective Action Required: Please provide a statement on how you will address forming a committee and notifying the public of the opportunity to participate on the committee. Please provide a timeline for updating your policy to become compliant with the final rule. In addition, provide a statement of understanding that the SFA is aware of the triennial assessment to evaluate compliance and notify the public.

### **Smart Snacks**

At the time of the on-site review there were no competitive foods or beverages sold. If any food or beverage sales occur in the future, the items must either be in compliance with the Smart Snacks general and nutritional guidelines, or must qualify as an exempt fundraiser. A staff member at each school should be responsible for documenting compliance of exempt fundraisers and any other competitive food sales. You can find fundraiser tracking tools on our <a href="Smart Snacks">Smart Snacks</a> webpage (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/smart-snacks).

### **Professional Standards**

### Commendations/Comments/Technical Assistance/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-chart-by-district-size.pdf). **Technical assistance was required.**
- 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 <a href="Professional Standards">Professional Standards</a> webpage (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/training/professional-standards).

### Annual Training Requirements for All Staff

- Directors: 12 hoursManagers: 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 Needed: Professional Standards

☐ **Finding:** The finding was that training is not being tracked for all those involved in the food service program this includes food service and non-food service staff. **Technical assistance** was provided.

Corrective Action Needed: Please provide a copy of the tracking mechanism that the school will use moving forward to capture current trainings for those involved in food service. Please include any current trainings taken in the tracking mechanism for the all those involved in the food service program. Please also track any non-food service staff and the subs and volunteers that may assist in the program moving forward. Submit a statement of understanding of the requirements to track staff involved in the food service including those that are non-food service staff. Recommended trainings for the current staff that have a role in food service include civil rights, offer versus serve, food safety, blood borne pathogens, etc.

### **Water**

### **Commendations/Comments/Technical Assistance/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</u> <u>webpage</u> (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/water-availability).

### **Food Safety and Buy American**

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% 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.

The following information must be recorded on a Buy American Non-Compliant Product List. *Note*: In reference the competitive procurement process, this form may be valid up to the full duration of the contract. DPI allows for a max-term of 5 years with all contracts.

When completing the <u>Buy American Non-Compliant Product list</u> there are 4 pieces of information that must be recorded:

- 1. Date
- 2. Name of product
- 3. Country of origin
- 4. Reason
  - a. Cost analysis SFA determined the cost of the domestic product when compared to the non-domestic product was above the predetermined allowable cost difference established by the SFA.
    - i. Ex. If domestic product costs 20% more than non-domestic product, and no domestic option/alternative is available, then SFA will purchase non-domestic product.
  - b. **Seasonality** Product(s) is not available domestically during certain times of the year. (SFA is required to record or list the months that the domestic product is not available.)
    - i. Ex. Blueberries are not available domestically during the months of December– June.
  - c. **Availability** Product(s) is not available to purchase domestically.
    - i. Ex. pineapples, bananas, mandarin oranges, and black Pepper/other spices.
  - d. **Substitution** In the event a domestic product is unavailable due to a distributors' inability to provide, a substitution of product(s) may occur. (The SFA is required to record the reason the distributor substituted the product.)
    - i. Ex. At the time of ordering/shipping domestic products was unavailable/damaged at distributor site and domestic options could not be substituted and as a result non-domestic products was substituted in its place.
  - e. **Distribution** the SFA's contracted distributor is unable to source domestic products and as a result, distributor does not carry the domestic product(s). (The

SFA is required to record the reason the distributor carries the non-domestic product.)

- i. Ex. Due to supply, chain constraints, recall of domestic product by processor, SFA contracted distributor was unable to source domestic product leaving only non-domestic option available for order fulfillment.
- f. Other- Please provide a written explanation.
  - i. Ex. The SFA received a donation of non-domestic oranges
  - ii. Ex. The SFA did not use School's Nonprofit Food Service Account to purchase the non-domestic products.

You may record additional information if you find it beneficial. A suggested <u>Buy American-Non Compliant Product List template</u> can be found on the <u>Buy American webpage</u> (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/procurement/buy-american).

## Findings and Corrective Action Needed: Buy American Provision

☐ Finding #1: Non-compliant products not being tracked: Canned tuna from Thailand.

Corrective Action Needed: Submit a non-compliant product sheet for the above mentioned product.

### Commendations/Comments/Technical Assistance/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**

All schools must have a comprehensive, site-specific food safety plan on-site which
includes all process 1, 2, and 3 items, all applicable standard operating procedures (SOP),
all equipment, and a listing of food service staff at that site. The food safety plan must be

- reviewed annually. A prototype food safety plan template as well as template SOPs may be found on the <u>SNT Food Safety</u> webpage. (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/food-safety)
- The site-specific food safety plan should include SOPs for all programs and procedures utilized at the site.

Technical assistance was provided regarding the process 1, 2 and 3 items.

### 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.

## Findings and Corrective Action Needed: Food Safety and Buy American

$lue{\Box}$ <b>Finding:</b> The finding was that the HAACP 1, 2 and 3 summary form was not completed.
Corrective Action Needed: Please complete the form and submit a copy back to reviewer.
☐ <b>Finding:</b> The finding was that persons working with the food service program did not sign the employee reporting agreement.

**Corrective Action Needed:** Please review and sign the employee reporting agreement for persons involved in the food service program. **Corrected on-site**, **no further action needed**.

### Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Outreach

## Commendations/Comments/Technical Assistance/Compliance Reminders

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

Technical assistance was provided for the school to provide information at the end of the school year regarding summer feeding in your area.

### 5. OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS REVIEWS

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 your students' success.

For more information on this initiative, please visit the Wisconsin DPI <u>Every Child a Graduate</u> webpage (https://dpi.wi.gov/statesupt/every-child-graduate)."

