USDA Child Nutrition Programs Administrative Review Summary Report

School Food Authority: Notre Dame School of Milwaukee Agency Code: 401095

School(s) Reviewed: Notre Dame School of Milwaukee

Review Date(s): December 3-4, 2018 Date of Exit Conference: December 4, 2018

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 School Nutrition Training 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 Notre Dame 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.

REVIEW AREAS

1. MEAL ACCESS AND REIMBURSEMENT

Certification and Benefit Issuance

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 and free milk 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.

Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

• 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.

Disclosure

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

CEP schools do not have to complete verification however they are required to complete the Verification report and submit by February 1st of each school year.

Meal Counting and Claiming

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

- 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).

Findings and Corrective Action Needed: Meal Counting and Claiming

☐ **Finding:** The individual site edit checks that the SFA were using did not have all the components needed to assist in determining the number of reimbursable meals to claim by eligibility for claim submission. **Technical assistance** was provided.

Corrective Action Needed: Please submit breakfast and lunch edit checks for one month.

2. MEAL PATTERN AND NUTRITIONAL QUALITY

Commendations and Appreciations

Sincere thanks to the school nutrition professionals, Administrative Compliance Coordinator, and Business Manager of Notre Dame School of Milwaukee (NSDM), and to the representatives from Taher, Inc. We appreciate your time and efforts spent preparing for and participating in the onsite review. Taher who over sees the School and the school nutrition professionals demonstrated positive attitudes and openness to guidance and recommendations. Taher representative is proactive. Since joining Taher, Inc. in October, she developed HACCP trainings for staff. She also plans to implement a fruit and vegetable bar at NDSM Elementary and add variety to the monthly menu.

<u>Technical Assistance and Program Requirement Reminders</u>

Non-Reimbursable Meals

One student at NDSM Elementary selected a non-reimbursable meal during lunch meal observation on December 3. The student left the meal service line without selecting the required $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of fruit, vegetable, or combination.

Two students at NSDM Middle School selected non-reimbursable meals during lunch meal observation on December 4. Students left the meal service line without selecting the required 1/2 cup of fruit, vegetable, or combination. Notably, potato salad offered on the day of review was an extra and did not credit towards daily vegetable requirements.

Incomplete meals claimed for reimbursement on the day of onsite review will be subject to fiscal action.

Offer Versus Serve (OVS)

NDSM Elementary and Middle School recently transitioned from serve to OVS. During breakfast and lunch meal observations at both sites, school nutrition professionals and student workers placed items on students' trays, even if the students declined the items (e.g. apple slices, oranges, etc.). Furthermore, school nutrition professionals inappropriately offered students choices within the vegetable component that restricted access to the full, planned portion sizes. Full, planned portion sizes met daily and weekly meal pattern requirements. For example, during lunch meal observation on December 3, school nutrition professionals asked students if they would like California blend vegetables or salad. Corrected onsite.

Each day at lunch, two vegetables are offered – one in 1/2 cup planned portion size, and the other in 1/4 cup planned portion size. If there is enough available, consider offering both vegetables in 1/2 cup planned portion sizes. Then, if a student selects one vegetable, declines the other, and declines 1/2 cup of fruit, he or she may still have a reimbursable meal.

Even young children are capable of serving themselves based on their likes and dislikes. Training and teaching are needed initially to help this change happen effectively, but just like anything else that happens in a school, it can be taught. When vegetables offered for self-service contribute towards weekly vegetable subgroup requirements, portion sizes of at least 1/8 cup each must be communicated to students. Proper portion size utensils, such as spoodles, encourage students to take the planned portion and the amount required as part of a reimbursable meal.

School nutrition professionals and students will benefit from additional OVS training in the context of NDSM's breakfast and lunch menus. The <u>Offer Versus Serve Guidance manual</u> and the <u>Offer Versus Serve webcast</u> may 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). Additionally, <u>Meal or No Meal</u>, a training resource inspired by a game show, may be used for staff determining reimbursable meals (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/ovs-meal-or-no-meal-2018.pptx).

School Breakfast Program

An item at breakfast is defined as 1.0 ounce equivalent (oz eq) grain, 1.0 oz eq m/ma, 1/2 cup of fruit and/or vegetable, or 1 cup of milk. Under OVS, four food items must be offered at breakfast, and students must select at least three food items, including 1/2 cup fruit, vegetable, or combination, to have a reimbursable meal.

Signage

Adequate signage helps students accurately select reimbursable meals by indicating clearly to students how many items at breakfast or components at lunch must be taken to constitute a reimbursable meal. Printed 8.5" x 11" signage was posted behind the meal service line. It may benefit students to enlarge and to reposition this signage at the beginning of the meal service line.

Printable signage (e.g. $8.5^{\circ} \times 11^{\circ}$, $12^{\circ} \times 17^{\circ}$, and $24^{\circ} \times 36^{\circ}$) is available on the Signage webpage in both English and Spanish (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/menuplanning/signage). If you are interested in ordering signage from the School Nutrition Team (SNT), please visit the <u>Team Nutrition webpage</u> (dpi.wi.gov/team-nutrition) and complete the Resource Order Form.

Production Records

Production records are required to document that food meeting the meal pattern was served in the appropriate serving sizes, including special dietary needs accommodations. 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.

Crediting

Crediting information recorded on the production records was not consistently in agreement with crediting information on the supporting documentation, such as Child Nutrition (CN) labels, product formulation statements (PFS), standardized recipes, or the Food Buying Guide (FBG). Including meal pattern contributions for specified grade groups on production records is not required, though it must be documented and available for staff.

The following discrepancies were identified in crediting recipes from the review period:

Cheeseburger on a bun – 2.5 oz eg of meat/meat alternate (m/ma)

- Salisbury steak 1.25 oz eq of m/ma
- Egg Pattie and Cheese Bagel Sandwich 1.75 oz eq of m/ma, 2 oz eq of grain

Current, complete nutrition facts labels with ingredient statements, CN labels, manufacturers' PFS clearly outlining dietary specifications (calories, saturated fat, sodium), standardized recipes, and crediting information must be available onsite where meals are served. Crediting documentation should be updated at least twice per year and as new products are purchased or substituted.

In-house Yield

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 School Food Authority's (SFA) next regularly scheduled Administrative Review (AR). 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 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. 113 count apples). In-house Yield Study Procedures are available on the Menu Planning webpage (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/menuplanning#ihy).

Signage is especially helpful when students are self-serving foods, such as fruits and vegetables. When vegetables offered for self-service contribute towards weekly vegetable subgroup requirements, portion sizes of at least 1/8 cup each must be communicated to students. Proper portion size utensils, such as spoodles, encourage students to take the planned portion and the amount required as part of a reimbursable meal. Consider adding signage to the meal service line, like the School Nutrition Team (SNT) Salad Bar Signage, showing students how many pieces of fruits and/or vegetables to select based on the planned portion size(s) (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/doc/salad-bar-signage-template.docx).

Portion Control

Using tools correctly is an important aspect of portion control. The correct way to portion food is to use a level scoop, which means the item is served as planned. Heaping scoops provide excess calories and nutrients and increase food cost, as more food is required to serve the same number of students. Food shortages may result. Conversely, scant scoops provide component shortages per portion and inadequate calories and nutrients. Excessive leftovers or food waste may result.

Field Trip Meals

Children on a field trip 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 for collecting meal payments, and obtaining a count by eligibility category. If your school implements OVS, it must be implemented to the extent possible during field trips 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).

Alternate Protein Product (APP) Crediting

In accordance with USDA's <u>"Alternate Protein Product Requirements,"</u> a CN label or PFS should have APP documentation attached that shows how the APP meets the regulation (https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/APPrequirements.pdf). This includes:

- a) Providing a statement that the APP meets the requirements found in Appendix A of 7 CFR 210, 220, 225, and 226.
- b) Showing that the product has been processed so that some portion of the non-protein constituents has been removed.
- c) Providing the Protein Digestibility Corrected Amino Acid Score (PDCAAS). The PDCAAS is required to be greater than 80% of casein and indicating how the PDCAAS was determined.
- d) Showing that the protein level is at least 18% by weight when fully hydrated or formulated.
- e) Providing the protein level of an APP on an "as-is" basis for the as purchased product. Protein is often provided on a moisture free basis (mfb) which is not the information FNS requires.

<u>APP Sample Documentation</u> is available on the <u>CN Labeling Food Manufacturers/Industry webpage</u> under Helpful Links (https://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/APPsampledoc.pdf, https://www.fns.usda.gov/cnlabeling/food-manufacturersindustry). The PFS submitted for Salisbury steak, which credited 1.25 oz eq of m/ma from textured vegetable protein (TVP), was missing APP documentation.

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Co-mingling Flexibility

Under the co-mingling flexibility from the USDA, preschool students may be served the breakfast and lunch meal patterns for age/grade group K-8 if they are served at the same time **and** in the same place. This flexibility may be used in situations when would be challenging for staff to determine during meal service if a child is in preschool or K-8. During on-site lunch meal observation, preschool students were served the K-8 meal pattern, but were not served at the same time as the K-8 students. Children who are not yet in kindergarten must be served the updated CACFP meal pattern if not co-mingled with other age/grade groups at meals. Training and additional resources can be found on the Infants and Preschool in NSLP and SBP webpage (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/infants-and-preschool).

<u>Unallowable Milk Type</u>

Only unflavored milk is allowable under the updated CACFP meal pattern. Flavored milk may not be served. Children 2-5 years old and not yet in kindergarten should be served unflavored low-fat (1%) or unflavored fat-free (skim) milk. Discontinue serving fat-free (skim) chocolate milk. The Smarter Lunchrooms Movement has strategies to encourage the consumption of unflavored milk (https://www.smarterlunchrooms.org/scorecard-tools/smarter-lunchrooms-strategies#Milk).

Offer Versus Serve (OVS)

OVS is not an appropriate service style for preschool or pre-K students. It may interfere with the nutrition goals of the updated CACFP meal pattern, as well as the goal of introducing new foods to children while they are still developing food preferences. Instead, preschool and pre-K students should be served all the required components in at least the minimum amounts at each meal or the SFA may implement family style meal service. Students may be offered a choice within components. For more information please visit the Infants and Preschool in NSLP and SBP webpage (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/infants-and-preschool).

For questions about the updated CACFP meal pattern, please contact our specialists: Tanya Kirtz at <u>Tanya.Kirtz@dpi.wi.gov</u> or Erin Opgenorth at <u>Erin.Opgenorth@dpi.wi.gov</u>.

Corrective Action

Meal Pattern Finding #1: Daily and weekly minimum requirements for vegetables were not met for lunch during the review period at the elementary due to 1/2 cup of mashed potatoes offered on Thursday, November 15. One-quarter cup of cucumbers were planned but were not served. Daily and weekly minimum requirements for vegetables were not met for lunch during the review period at the middle school due to 1/2 cup of carrots offered in field trip meals on Tuesday, November 13. The daily minimum requirement is 3/4 cup, and the weekly minimum requirement is 3/4 cups.

Required Corrective Action: Describe **specifically** how the daily and weekly minimum requirements for vegetables will be met for lunch during the review period (e.g. portion sizes increased or decreased, additional menu items, product replacements, etc.). Please address cucumbers, mashed potatoes, and field trip meals in your reply.

Meal Pattern Finding #2: Inappropriate implementation of OVS. Refer to Offer versus Serve (above) for details and technical assistance.

Required Corrective Action: Submit two to three sentences describing specific changes to breakfast and lunch meal services to improve implementation of OVS. Please address how food will be offered in your reply.

Meal Pattern Finding #3: Production records submitted for breakfast and for lunch for the review period were not filled in completely. All required information, including planned portion sizes and substitutions made for students with special dietary needs, on the template must be documented for all menu items. **Required Corrective Action:** Submit one day of completed production records for breakfast and for lunch. Select production records you are confident are filled in accurately and completely.

Meal Pattern Finding #4: During on-site lunch meal observation, preschool students were served the K-8 meal pattern, but were not served at the same time as the K-8 students. Children who are not yet in kindergarten must be served the updated CACFP meal pattern if not co-mingled with other age/grade groups at meals.

Required Corrective Action: Submit two to three sentences describing specific changes to lunch meal service to comply with the updated CACFP meal pattern or with the co-mingling flexibility.

3. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Nonprofit School Food Service Account

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

<u>Annual Financial Report (AFR)</u>

- 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. <u>SP23-2017 Unpaid Meal Charges guidance Q & A</u> may be found our Financial Management webpage (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/financial).

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.

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).
- Schools need to assess adult meal prices annually prior to contract submission to ensure student reimbursements are not being used to subsidize adult meals. Resources
- Nonprogram Foods In a "Nutshell" (http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/nonprogram-foods-in-a-nutshell.pdf).

Reminder to track adult meals and break them out for the annual financial report in the non-program foods category.

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.

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 Self-Compliance Form

• The <u>Civil Rights Self-Evaluation Compliance</u> form is required to be completed by October 31 annually (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/forms/doc/f1441.doc).

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).
- 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.

Processes for complaints

- Schools must have a process for receiving and processing complaints alleging discrimination within the school meals program.
- All verbal or written civil rights complaints regarding the school nutrition programs that are filed with the district must be forwarded to the Civil Rights Division of USDA Food and Nutrition Service within

- five days. You will want to make sure that this is included in the district procedures to ensure compliance.
- 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).

Technical assistance was provided to SFA to develop a civil rights procedure or process. Alternatively, include in the current civil rights procedures the inclusion of the food service program.

On-site Monitoring

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

- Every school year, each SFA with more than one school must perform no less than one on-site review of the meal counting and claiming system and the readily observable general areas of review identified under 7 CFR 210.18(h) in each school operating the NSLP and 50% of schools operating the SBP administered by the SFA; this is due by February 1.
- A CEP specific on-site monitoring NSLP and SBP form is available to compare total daily lunch meal
 counts against the attendance-adjusted enrollment. The forms are located on our <u>Community</u>
 <u>Eligibility Provision (CEP)</u> webpage, under the resources for currently participating sites section
 (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/community-eligibility).

Food Service Management Company (FSMC)

The following duties may not be delegated to the FSMC:

- Onsite monitoring the annual requirement for the district to evaluate each "site" of the School Food Authority (SFA) for meal compliance, proper Point of Service (POS) and meal claiming, plus other categories. This must be completed for Lunch and Breakfast (at half of the sites) each year. It is due February 1 annually and the documents are kept onsite.
- Signature Authority –a representative of the SFA must sign off on the contracts for the SFA
- Edit Checks- an SFA person must sign off on the monthly edit checks of meals served before the information is submitted for a claim, even if the edit check is done by the POS software.

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 meets some but not all requirements.
Corrective Action Required: Please provide a timeline for updating your policy to become compliant
with the final rule. In addition, please include who makes up the committee for wellness.

Smart Snacks in Schools

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

- All foods (vending machines, school stores, etc.) sold anywhere on school campus, between midnight
 and 30 minutes after the last bell, must be in compliance with the new "Smart Snacks" regulation that
 became effective July 1, 2014. Information on this regulation, along with a product calculator to help
 determine compliance of various food items, can be found on our Smart Snacks webpage at
 (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/smart-snacks).
- The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) allows two fundraiser exemptions per student organization per school site per school year, per the district's approval. A fundraiser cannot exceed two weeks in time. An exempt fundraiser may sell foods and beverages that are not allowable under the Smart Snacks rule but may not compete directly with the sale of reimbursable meals. All food fundraisers must be tracked SFA-wide to assure compliance with the regulation. Copies of the tools are available on our Smart Snacks webpage (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/smart-snacks).

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-chart-by-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: New Food Service Director Hiring Requirements

<u>Professional Standards: Training Requirements</u>

- 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 is not being monitored on a tracking tool for non-food service staff and student workers.

Corrective Action Needed: Please submit a statement of how this will be corrected. Please describe the tracking mechanism or submit a template of what will be utilized to track trainings.

Water

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

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.

<u>Temperatures</u>

 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

- The Food Safety Plan was available for review. It was obvious in observing the food service
 manager/director at work that they are very knowledgeable about food safety practices and safe food
 handling. All temperature logs, calibration logs, and sanitizing solution logs were up-to-date.
- 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 SNT Food Safety 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.
- The procedures detailed in the SOPs included in the site-specific food safety plan should be followed by all food service staff, student workers, volunteers, and any other people involved in the implementation of Child Nutrition Programs at all times.
- 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.
- Thank you for maintaining a food safety plan which includes all process 1, 2, and 3 items, all applicable standard operating procedures (SOP), all equipment, and food service staff.

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.

<u>Storage</u>

- 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)).
- The on-site and/or off-site storage areas were reviewed, including freezers, refrigerators, dry good storage rooms and other areas.

Time/Temperature Control for Safety (TCS) Food

Milk and dairy products

Shell eggs

Meat (beef, pork, and lamb)

Poultry

Fish

Shellfish and crustaceans

Baked potatoes

Heat-treated plant food, such as cooked rice,

beans, and vegetables

Time as Public Health Control

• When using "Time as a Public Health Control:"

Tofu or other soy protein Sprouts and seed sprouts

Sliced melons Cut tomatoes Cut leafy greens

Untreated garlic-and-oil mixtures

Synthetic ingredients, such as textured soy protein in meat alternatives

- The internal temperature must be at or below 41 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) at the beginning of the holding period for cold time/temperature control for safety (TCS) food.
- TCS food can be held up to 6 hours at an internal temperature between 41°F and 70°F under monitored conditions. Provisions must be made to discard product if the 6 hour time limit is exceeded, the temperature of the cold TCS food rises above 70°F, or the food is removed from service.
- Hot TCS foods can be held up to 4 hours at an internal temperature greater than 70°F. Provisions must be made to discard product if the 4 hour time limit is exceeded, the temperature of the hot TCS food falls to 70°F, or the food is removed from service.
- There can be no leftovers and no reuse of the items covered under this plan. Thus, if any TCS food is held without mechanical refrigeration during service, including TCS foods on garden bars, all leftover TCS food must be discarded.

Sharing and No Thank You Tables

Both Sharing Tables and No Thank You Tables are permitted in Wisconsin. Definitions, considerations, and guidance for safe and responsible implementation for each type of table is outlined below.

Sharing Table

A sharing table is a designated table for items students do not intend to consume. Students may pick up items from the sharing table during the meal period. Items must be pre-packaged and unopened. A designated food service worker or trained individual must monitor the sharing table throughout meal service, inspecting items for wholesomeness. The table should not be located immediately after the point of service/sale.

No Thank You Table

A no thank you table is a designated table placed after the point of service for items students do not intend to consume. Students may not pick up items from this table during the meal period. At the end of meal service, a designated worker or trained individual must inspect the items for wholesomeness.

Sharing or no thank you tables are appropriate for students in first grade and up. Preschool, prekindergarten, and kindergarten students are considered a susceptible population at greater risk for foodborne illness.

Considerations

- 1. School food authorities (SFA) are making a conscientious effort to be good stewards of federal and state funding and USDA Foods received for the school meal and afterschool snack programs.
- 2. Offer versus Serve is effectively implemented. This includes training and supervising food service employees, informing students they may turn down up to two components at lunch and one food item at breakfast, and providing age appropriate signage.
- The legal entity (e.g. school board, administrator) stated, in writing, sharing or no thank you tables
 are allowed at specific serving locations and accepts liability in the event of foodborne illness or
 injury.
- 4. Parents will be informed in writing.
- 5. The food safety plan for the specific serving locations where sharing or no thank you tables are allowed includes a standard operating procedure (SOP). Please work with the sanitarian and/or local regulatory authority before, during, and after the development of the SOP. Any changes required by the sanitarian will be made.

- 6. Items on the sharing or no thank you table are limited to school meal or snack components. Food items brought from home are excluded.
- 7. Fruits and vegetables with edible peels must be washed and wrapped or packaged for meal service.
- 8. Food on sharing or no thank you tables is not for adults (e.g. food service staff, aides, teachers, custodians).

Wholesome Leftovers

Wholesome leftovers may be re-served; given away to students during the same meal period (sharing tables) or later part of or subsequent school day (no thank you tables); given to the school nurse for students with medications or complaints of hunger; donated; or composted. "Wholesome" must be defined by the SFA as part of the SOP.

Only non-time/temperature control for safety (TCS) food items may be re-served and sold in child nutrition programs by the school food authority. TCS foods include milk, cheese, and yogurt, among many other food items.

Food safety decisions surrounding sharing and no thank you tables are at the discretion of the sanitarian and/or local regulatory authority. Implementation may vary across the state.

Monitoring Log

Consider using a monitoring log for items left the sharing table or no thank you table. List prepackaged items and fruits with a non-edible peel or wrapper. At the end of meal service, count the items placed on the table. The employee who initials this log must check all leftover items for wholesomeness. No open items may be re-served. Use data to inform future menu planning and purchasing decisions. A template is available on the <u>Food Safety</u> webpage (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/food-safety).

Findings and Corrective Action: Food Safety

noted that a student did take a milk from the table. There was some confusion on the purpose of the
table for students.
Corrective Action Needed: Please make a determination if this is just a table to be used to dispose of
the milk or if it will be used as a sharing table. Please submit a statement moving forward what the
SFA plans to do regarding this table. Obtain sanitarian approval for applicable SOP if the SFA will use
this as a sharing table.
Finding: The finding was that a staff person was going around to students that did not want their main
entrée and taking the students tray and offering it to another student.
Corrective Action Needed: This practice is not allowable. Several reasons were provided to the SFA
why this was not acceptable. Please submit a statement how the SFA will move forward with
discontinuing this practice.

Buy American

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

The USDA requires that an 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.

For domestic products without country of origin labeling (COOL), consider the <u>Buy American Provision</u> <u>Attestation for Agricultural Product(s) Purchased Between School and Contractor</u>

(https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/doc/buy-american-attestation.docx). By signing this Attestation, the Contractor is attesting that the agricultural product(s) listed are compliant with the Buy American Provision as defined in 7 CFR Part 210.21(d). For more information, visit the Buy American Provision webpage (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/procurement/buy-american).

Reporting and Recordkeeping

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

- Thank you for completing the required USDA and DPI reports and maintaining the paperwork in an organized manner.
- There are additional record retention rules for CEP. "LEAs/schools must retain records used in the development of the ISP (e.g., records for the initial approval year and all records from the year any updates are made to the ISP) during the entire period CEP is in effect. In addition documentation must be retained for five years after the submission of the final claim for reimbursement for the last fiscal year of CEP." Documents would also need to be maintained longer if there were an open audit issue needing to be resolved.
- All free and reduced price applications, including applications from households denied benefits must be kept on file for a minimum of three years after the final claim is submitted for the fiscal year to which they pertain.

School Breakfast Program (SBP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Outreach

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

• At the beginning of the school year, the SFA must notify families of the availability of breakfast and schools should send reminders regarding the availability of the SBP multiple times throughout the school year.

Summer Meals

A goal of USDA Child Nutrition Programs is to ensure all students have access to healthy and nutritious meals year-round. 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 Summer Food 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

4. OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS REVIEWS

Afterschool Snacks

<u>Commendations/Comments/Technical Assistance/Compliance Reminders</u>

- Each site participating in the Afterschool Snack Program needs to have an onsite monitoring review completed within the first four weeks of operation, and a second review within the school year. The review form to complete may be found on our <u>Afterschool Snack Program</u> webpage (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/after-school).
- Area Eligible Afterschool Snacks are all claimed at the free rate.
- Each afterschool snack location is required to maintain documentation supporting that reimbursable
 meals were provided to students, including production records with snack items and serving size.
 Menus are not required, but encouraged. Production record examples are found on the afterschool
 snack program webpage linked above.
- Participating students are claimed by eligibility category (free, reduced, or paid) when a reimbursable snack is selected.
- Afterschool sites must provide educational or enrichment activities in an organized, structured, and supervised environment.
- <u>Snack Count Sheets</u> and <u>production record templates</u> are located on the Afterschool Snack webpage (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/after-school).

Findings and Corrective Action Needed

☐ Finding: Onsite monitoring of the afterschool snack program was not completed.

Corrective Action Required: Complete the on-site monitoring form for this program and provide the completed form and provide a statement of understanding that this is required twice per year, the first within the first 4 weeks of the program start date. https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/after-school.

5. COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION (CEP)

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

• It is necessary to maintain all certification documents supporting participation in CEP. CEP participating schools will need to inform the SNT annually of the intent to continue participating in CEP, or of any changes to participation (i.e. withdrawal, change of participating schools, groups or requested increases to percentages).

Dr. Tony Evers, State Superintendent of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, shares a vision that every student will graduate prepared for college and career. His 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).



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