# USDA Child Nutrition Programs Administrative Review Summary Report

School Food Authority: Catholic East School Agency Code: 40-7112

School(s) Reviewed: Catholic East Elementary School HR

Review Date(s): 1/8-1/9/2019 Date of Exit Conference: 1/9/2019

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

- Determine whether the SFA meets program regulations,
- Provide technical assistance,
- Secure needed corrective action,
- Assess fiscal action, and when applicable, recover improperly paid funds.

## **General Program Reminders/Updates:**

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

## Appreciation/Commendations/Noteworthy Initiatives:

Thank you to the staff at Catholic East School 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.

The DPI review team appreciates the eagerness of the staff at Catholic East Elementary School – HR for their willingness to make changes to meet school nutrition program regulations and we are confident that the staff will continue to improve their knowledge and operation of child nutrition programs.

#### **REVIEW AREAS**

#### 1. MEAL ACCESS AND REIMBURSEMENT

**Certification and Benefit Issuance** 

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

One hundred-four (104) eligibility determinations were reviewed, nine (9) errors were identified.

### Free and Reduced Price Meal Applications

- Applications must be reviewed in a timely manner. An eligibility determination must be made, the
  family notified of its status, and the status implemented within 10 operating days of the receipt of
  the application.
- Children are eligible for free or reduced price meal benefits on the date their eligibility is determined by the Determining Official.
- All free/reduced applications and the direct certification runs were available for review. Two students were found to be receiving the incorrect benefit.
  - When an application only has one frequency of payment indicated for all of the reported incomes on the application, the income should not be converted to annual or monthly. Instead, using the <a href="Income Eligibility Guidelines">Income Eligibility Guidelines</a>, the income as listed on the application should be compared to the correct household size and income frequency (i.e., weekly, twice monthly, every two weeks, monthly, annually) <a href="https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/income-eligibility-guidelines-1718.pdf">Income-eligibility-guidelines-1718.pdf</a>).
- When a household has income in addition to a loss from a business, that income must be included on the free and reduced application in full and is not offset by the business loss. A business loss (negative dollar amount) would become \$0 for the income on the application.

## **Annual Income**

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

### **Income Eligibility Guidelines**

- The current <a href="Income Eligibility Guidelines">Income Eligibility Guidelines</a> (IEGs) are used to determine applications, whether manually or electronically. If done through software, please check that the income levels are updated each year after July 1.
- The complete IEG grid may not be sent to the households applying for meal benefits as they include the specific income amounts for free or reduced benefits. Therefore, the Public Release may not be sent to households, either. The information letter must include the reduced price guidelines and an explanation that households with incomes at or below the reduced price income limit may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Typically, the information letter is the USDA template entitled <a href="Letter to Parents/Frequently Asked Questions">Letter to Parents/Frequently Asked Questions</a> (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/doc/fr-application-parent-guardian-letter-faq.docx).

## Household Size Box

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

## **Incomplete Applications**

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

## **Application Forms**

- If an SFA wishes to change the look or format of the application for Free or Reduced-price school
  meals or other forms in the application packet, that document needs to be approved by the School
  Nutrition team at DPI.
- Thank you for using the DPI prototype letters with the current non-discrimination statement.

#### Other Source Categorical

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

#### **Public Release**

- All SFAs are required to distribute a <u>Public Release</u> before the start of the school year (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/free-reducedapplications#apps). The purpose is to inform the public that free and reduced price meals are available. SFAs must annually distribute the Public Release to:
- Local news media

- o Grassroots organizations (local organizations providing services to populations in need)
- Major employers contemplating or experiencing large layoffs
- Local Unemployment Office (as applicable)
- SFAs are not required to pay to have the public release published but must maintain documentation of whom it was sent to along with the specific materials distributed.

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

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

## **Direct Certification**

- Direct Certification electronically matches your student file to a state database of students in families enrolled in FoodShare, W-2 Cash Benefits, FDPIR, Medicaid or Foster Care.
- A child or other household member's receipt of benefits from an Assistance Program automatically extends eligibility for free benefits to all children who are members of the household. [7 CFR 245.6(b)(7)] Foster child benefits do not extend to other students in a household.
- SFAs and schools operating a Special Provision must conduct a data match between State records and student enrollment records at least once annually [7 CFR 245.6(b)(1)(v)].
- As a reminder, you are required to complete a full enrollment direct certification run 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.
- Thank you for running the Direct Certification matches in the required time frames, when you
  receive a new student and other times to pick up any newly eligible students.

## **Transferring Students**

- When a child transfers to a new school within the same Local Educational Agency (LEA), the new school must accept the eligibility determination from the child's former school, if the child has an individual eligibility determination.
- A child that transfers within the same LEA from a CEP to a non-CEP school must be given free reimbursable meals for up to 30 operating days or until a new eligibility determination is made, whichever comes first.
- Transferring the eligibility determination between LEAs ensures that qualifying students continue
  to receive school meal benefits as they transition to new schools, and avoids the possibility of
  unpaid meal charges. FNS strongly encourages LEAs to immediately accept the eligibility
  determinations made at a student's previous LEA (if they participated in NSLP) when a student

transfers between LEAs during the school year, over the summer, or at the start of the next school year. Wisconsin DPI requires source documentation of the student's previous eligibility. The transfer of eligibility between LEAs for students attending CEP schools will be required by July 1, 2019.

### **Independent Review of Applications**

- LEAs that have a 5% or higher error rate during the certification review of the Administrative Review will be required to conduct a second review of applications in the following school year.
- Catholic East School had an 8.65% certification error rate. More information on the Independent Review of Applications is found in the Eligibility Manual. An SNT memo will be mailed during the summer with more information for the SFA.

## **Disclosure**

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

## Findings and Corrective Action Needed: Certification and Benefit Issuance

Finding #1: From the student sample reviewed for benefit issuance, 2 students are receiving free benefits which should be reduced.  Corrective Action Needed: Please notify these households of the reduction in benefits (to take effect 10 days from the date they are notified in writing). Record the date that corrective action is taken on the SFA-1 form and send completed copy as corrective action. Fiscal action will be figured for these errors for the review period (December) and month of on-site review (January).
<b>Finding #2</b> : The household size box on 1 application was blank and the household size box on several other applications did not match the number of household names reported on the application. <b>Corrective Action Needed</b> : Please provide a statement of understanding that going forward, all applications will be checked to make sure names on application match the number in the household size box.
<b>Finding #3</b> : One application was missing an adult signature. <u>Corrective Action Needed</u> : Please provide a statement of understanding that going forward, all applications be checked for adult signature before an application is considered complete and able to be processed.

<b>Finding #4:</b> One application was missing a social security number (or checked box indicating no social security number).
<u>Corrective Action Needed</u> : Please provide a statement of understanding that going forward, all applications will be checked to ensure social security number is present or boxed indicating no social security number is checked before the application can be processed.
Finding #5: Income indicated on back of applications is sometimes converted to monthly frequency when not indicated on front of application by applicant.  Corrective Action Needed: Please provide a statement of understanding that going forward, applications will be determined using the frequency of income as reported by the applicant. Income is only annualized when there are multiple frequencies noted.
<b>Finding #6</b> : Public release not sent to 3 outlets, including social service or unemployment office. <u>Corrective Action Needed</u> : Please provide a statement of understanding that, going forward, the public release will be sent to 3 outlets: including the media, social service or unemployment and other grassroots location.

## Verification

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

- When applications are chosen for verification, the person designated as the Confirming Official must review the application(s) to ensure the initial determination is correct prior to contacting the family. There is a place for the Confirming Official to sign and date on the back of the application.
- The LEA has a regulatory obligation to verify "for cause" all approved applications that may be questionable. For more information, refer to the current Eligibility Manual.
- When a benefit eligibility status increases, the change must take place within three days. When a benefit eligibility decreases, the change cannot take place before ten calendar days and a notice of adverse action is sent in writing with appeal rights procedures.

## Findings and Corrective Action Needed: Verification

☐ Finding #1: The VCR requires correction for number of students.

Corrective Action Needed: Reviewer will let supervisor know that VCR portal needs to be reopened.

Once notified that it is available, please resubmit the VCR online and send reviewer copy of the "You have successfully submitted" confirmation page.

## Meal Counting and Claiming

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

- Meals may only be charged to a student upon receipt of a reimbursable meal to assure proper benefits issuance.
- When entering the claim it is necessary to use the edit check to calculate your reimbursable meals by site for claim submission.
- Meals must be offered to all students each day school is in session a full day, so DPI has created <u>Field</u>
   <u>Trip meal resources</u> to help schools offer student meals (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/menu-planning).
- The meal counting and claim for the Review Month was conducted perfectly.

- 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 #1: The individual edit check by site is not used to determine the number of reimbursable meals to claim by eligibility for claim submission.

Corrective Action Needed: Please discuss with the POS vendor the requirement for a Meal Count Listing (edit check) by meal and by site. This should be possible to generate as the information is available by site on the Daily Meal Count Report. When you are able to access this, please send the Meal Count Listing (edit check) by site, for September, October, November and January, both breakfast and lunch. If the POS-generated edit checks by site, are not possible to get from the POS system, please submit the newly created manual edit check, along with ADA, by site, for breakfast and lunch for November and January. This will be subject to fiscal action, \$600 disregard will apply.

# 2. MEAL PATTERN AND NUTRITIONAL QUALITY

## **Commendations**

Thank you to the staff of Catholic East Elementary School. We appreciate your time and efforts spent preparing for and participating in the onsite review. All those involved with the Administrative Review were welcoming and showed positive attitudes with a willingness to learn. All staff serving and assisting with school meals had pleasant and encouraging interactions with the students during meal service. Thank you for all that you do for the students at Catholic East Elementary!

## **Comments/Technical Assistance/Compliance Reminders**

## Offer versus Serve

Food service staff and staff assisting in the serving line were somewhat unclear about the Offer versus Serve (OVS) requirements for breakfast and lunch. At breakfast, staff were uncertain whether students were required to select milk and were not aware that students could select only the pre-bagged breakfast as a reimbursable meal. At lunch, staff were serving all components to students and were not asking students which menu items they would like. Some students did request not to be served some items, and were not required to take them as part of the reimbursable meal. A review of the Offer versus Serve requirements is encouraged for all non-food service staff assisting with school meals. Also, consider asking students what they would like for lunch as they move through the serving line, while educating them on the requirements for a reimbursable meal. As a reminder, OVS is not an allowable meal service style for students not yet in kindergarten (5K) when not co-mingled with older students during meals.

## Weight versus Volume

As a reminder, there is a difference between weight (ounces) and volume (fluid ounces). The fact that spoodles, which are used to measure volume, are often referred to as a "4 oz spoodle" for example, makes this somewhat confusing. A 4 oz or ½ cup spoodle is actually 4 fl oz rather than 4 oz by weight. For a comparison of weight versus volume, see the table below.

	Measures	Measured In	Conversions	Tools Used
WEIGHT	Meat/meat alternates Grains	Ounces (oz) Grams (g) Kilograms (kg) Pounds (lb or #)	1 lb = 16 oz 1 oz = 28 g	Scale
VOLUME	Fruits Vegetables Milk	Fluid ounces (floz) Tablespoon (T or TBSP) Teaspoon (t or tsp) Cups (c) Pint (pt) Quart (qt) Gallon (gal) Liter (L)	3 tsp = 1 TBSP 16 TBSP = 1 c 1 c = 8 fl oz 1 pint = 2 c 1 quart = 2 pints 1 gallon = 4 quarts	Spoodles, measuring cups, measuring spoons, scoops, dishers, ladles

#### Breakfast Menu

The breakfast meal pattern requires at least 1 cup of fruit to be offered daily at breakfast for K-12 and comingled pre-K students. Instead of offering two packaged fruit cups to meet this requirement, consider offering a packaged fruit cup along with a variety of fresh fruit. When using Offer versus Serve, the packaged fruit cup could still be included in the pre-bagged breakfast and the fresh fruit could be offered alongside the bag for students to select if they would like.

A meat/meat alternate may be offered and counted toward the grain component at breakfast if at least 1 oz eq of actual grain has been also been offered. Consider replacing either the cereal or crackers offered daily at breakfast with a meat/meat alternate on some days to increase variety and reduce the added sugar content of the planned breakfast.

## <u>Crediting Documentation for Packaged Fruit Cups</u>

The fruit cups being offered at breakfast are 4 oz by weight, not volume, and therefore require additional information from the manufacturer to show that the juice and fruit together credits as ½ cup fruit. According to guidance from the USDA Midwest Regional Office, manufacturers are allowed to declare volume measurements contained in fruit cups as a means of crediting information (i.e., 3/8 cup of mandarin oranges and 1/8 cup of 100% fruit juice). Additional documentation must be provided. Manufacturers are also allowed to provide in-house yield data. School food authorities shall measure the contents of fruit cups to ensure they obtain the same volume measurements declared by the manufacturers. Reference the Tips for Accepting Processed Product Documentation PDF on the Menu Planning webpage for steps to verifying the accuracy of information on a PFS

(https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/tipsheet\_processedproduct.pdf). The contents of one fruit cup were measured during the onsite review and did fill a 4 fl oz spoodle. Please request crediting documentation from the manufacturer to show crediting for the 4 oz fruit cups.

### **Crediting Leafy Green Vegetables**

Raw, uncooked leafy greens credit for half the volume served in their fresh forms. For example, ½ cup of fresh, baby spinach credits as ¼ cup dark green vegetable. The same crediting principle applies to iceberg lettuce and other lettuces, even if they are not in the dark green subgroup. If leafy greens are cooked, such as steamed spinach, they credit as the actual volume served.

## **Crediting Mixed Vegetables**

The Peas & Carrots vegetable mix cannot be credited toward the respective subgroups without documentation from the manufacturer stating the composition of each vegetable. Because the mix contains vegetables from multiple subgroups, including starchy, it credits as an *additional* vegetable. The amount offered still credits towards the daily vegetable requirement.

## Methods for Crediting Grains

Grains can be credited based on weight using Exhibit A

(https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/exhibit-a.pdf). If a product is not listed in Exhibit A, you must obtain a signed Product Formulation Statement (PFS) from the manufacturer that lists the *grams of creditable grain* in the product. Divide this number by 16 grams per ounce equivalent to calculate the grain contribution for that product. Some products may credit differently based on the crediting method used.

Acceptable product documentation, including the ingredient list, was not submitted for the chocolate graham crackers offered at breakfast. Without a Product Formulation Statement, this item would credit as 0.75 oz eq grain, using Exhibit A. Using this crediting, these crackers could not be counted as an item at breakfast and students would need to select three additional items at breakfast for a reimbursable meal. Consider requesting a Product Formulation Statement from the manufacturer for this product showing the crediting information and that it is whole grain-rich. If a Product Formulation Statement cannot be obtained, consider discontinuing the use of this cracker. These crackers were not credited toward the grain component at breakfast for the week of review, but this did not result in quantity shortages.

Product Formulation Statements for the Gripz crackers and Giant Goldfish crackers offered during the week of review were not submitted. These were provided by the reviewer and should be added to the crediting documentation on file.

## Monthly Lunch Menu

The menu should list all components included with the reimbursable meal. Currently, milk is not listed on the monthly online lunch 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.

#### Standardized Recipes

Currently, the cheeseburger (beef patty), cheese slice, and the bun are listed separately on the production record and offered separately in the serving line. Consider developing a standardized recipe for the Cheeseburger. With a standardized recipe, only the total number of cheeseburgers, not the totals for each part of the cheeseburger, would have to be recorded on the production record.

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 in each production kitchen to reflect the products and practices that are used in that 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 <a href="Standardized Recipes">Standardized Recipes</a> webpage (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/menu-planning/recipes).

### Dietary Specifications and Nutritional Quality

The updated meal pattern mandated by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA) of 2010 outlined sodium limits for breakfast and lunch. Many of the canned vegetables used contain added sodium. Additionally, some of these items also contain added sugar. Consider procuring canned or frozen vegetables with no added sodium or sugar to improve the nutritional quality of the meals offered.

### 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 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).

## CACFP Meal Pattern for 3K and 4K Students

Students not yet in kindergarten (5K) must follow the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) meal pattern when they are not served meals at the same time and in the same place as older (K-12) students. Under this meal pattern:

- All meal components should be served to students in at least the minimum serving size. Offer Versus Serve (OVS) is not an allowable service style for preschool or pre-K students.
- The serving sizes required for each component are generally smaller than those offered under the K-8 meal pattern. However, note that the 3K and 4K students must be offered 1.5 ounce equivalents (oz eq) of meat/meat alternate daily at lunch.
- All milk served must be fat-free or low-fat unflavored milk. More than one milk variety does not
  have to be offered to pre-K students when following the CACFP meal pattern.
- Cereal may contain no more than 6 grams of total sugars per dry ounce and yogurts may contain no more than 23 grams of total sugars per 6 ounces.
- Grain-based desserts are not creditable toward the grains component. Grain-based desserts
  include foods such as cookies, sweet rolls, doughnuts, granola bars, cereal bars, toaster pastries,
  cakes, and brownies.
- A second vegetable may be served in place of the fruit component at lunch. The second vegetable
  must be at least the same serving size as the fruit component it is replacing. If two vegetables are
  served, they must be two different vegetables.

For more information, please refer to the <u>Infants and Preschool in NSLP and SBP</u> webpage (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/infants-and-preschool).

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

☐ Meal Pattern Finding #1: A variety of milk, at least two allowable milk types, is required to be offered daily at breakfast and lunch for K-12 and co-mingled pre-K students. Allowable milk types in Child Nutrition Programs include fat-free (skim) and low-fat (1 percent) flavored and unflavored milk. Only low-fat unflavored milk was present in the cooler prior to lunch on the day of observation. Staff stated that students at this site are only offered one milk variety daily at both breakfast and lunch.

This was corrected prior to lunch service on the day of review by transporting chocolate milk from the other school site. All kindergarten and first grade students were offered two varieties for the duration of lunch service. Students were co-mingled for breakfast service and all were offered two varieties for the duration of breakfast service. While onsite, it was stated that two varieties were offered in the past, but only unflavored milk has been offered this school year to be more in line with the CACFP meal pattern's focus on reducing added sugar intake. Consider offering fat-free unflavored milk and low-fat unflavored milk to students to meet the requirement to offer two milk varieties while still reducing the added sugar content of the meals.

**Corrective Action Needed:** Submit a statement explaining that you understand that two milk varieties must be offered at both breakfast and lunch to all your K-1 and co-mingled pre-K students going forward. Additionally, the production records submitted as part of the corrective action needed for Meal Pattern Finding #5 will be checked for compliance with this requirement.

Fiscal action is required for select repeat violations found during an Administrative Review (AR). Because a milk variety finding at breakfast was included with corrective action during the last AR as well as the current AR, fiscal action will be applied. There will be a re-claim for breakfast meals offered without a variety of milk during the week of review. The following finding was documented from the School Year (SY) 2014-2015 AR, which is a repeat finding during the current AR:

- It is a requirement of both the School Breakfast and National School Lunch Program to offer a variety of milk to students. With the breakfast in the classroom model that is in place, this requirement can be met by sending the most common milk selected for most meals and then including a few of the second milk variety so that students in each classroom have the option. Or students could order their milk type and these numbers can be given to the students that pick up the breakfast baskets from the cafeteria. Some schools choose to only offer unflavored milk at the breakfast meal to help limit sugar content in the meal. If you'd like to only offer unflavored milks; fat-free (skim) and 1% white milk are the two allowable varieties. Otherwise; fat-free chocolate milk and either 1% white or fat-free white can be the two varieties. The numbers for each milk variety should be recorded on the breakfast production record.
- Meal Pattern Finding #2: There was a Red/Orange vegetable subgroup shortage at lunch during the week of review. K-8 students must be offered ¾ cup of vegetables from the Red/Orange subgroup per week. On Wednesday during the week of review, ½ cup of carrots was offered. Additional carrots were offered in the Peas & Carrots mixture; however, these carrots cannot be credited toward the Red/Orange subgroup without documentation from the manufacturer stating the percent of carrots in the mixture.

**Corrective Action Needed:** Submit a written statement explaining how the menu for the week of review will be changed to meet the Red/Orange subgroup weekly requirement. Alternatively, submit product

documentation from the manufacturer for the canned Peas & Carrots mixture showing that one  $\frac{1}{2}$ -cup serving contains  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup carrots.

Repeat violations of a vegetable subgroup shortage during subsequent Administrative Reviews may result in fiscal action.

☐ Meal Pattern Finding #3: There was a daily fruit shortage at breakfast on Wednesday during the week of review. One 4.5 oz (by weight) applesauce cup was offered, which credits as ½ cup fruit. All K-12 and co-mingled pre-K students must be offered 1 cup of fruit daily at breakfast.

**Corrective Action Needed:** Submit a statement explaining what you will add to the breakfast menu this day so that 1 cup of fruit is offered. Additionally, the production records submitted as part of the corrective action needed for Meal Pattern Finding #5 will be checked for compliance with this requirement.

Repeat violations of a daily fruit shortage during subsequent Administrative Reviews may result in fiscal action.

■ Meal Pattern Finding #4: Every grain served and credited as part of a reimbursable meal needs to be whole grain-rich, meaning 50% or more of the product needs to be whole grain. The sliced bread offered with the Turkey & Gravy entree during the week of review was not whole grain-rich.

**Corrective Action Needed:** Purchase a whole grain-rich version of the sliced bread and submit the nutrition facts label and ingredient list.

- Meal Pattern Finding #5: Production records are required to document that food meeting the meal pattern was served in the appropriate serving sizes. Production records are also intended to be useful tools to record information prior to production, during production, and following production. The breakfast production records submitted for the week of review contained only the planned information and were not complete. The lunch production records submitted for the week of review were missing required information. Additionally, the production records and transport sheets in use do not clearly separate the information for each serving site. Based on the production records submitted for the week of review, the following items need attention:
  - Each menu item, including condiments, needs a planned and actual (if different from planned) number of servings prepared.
  - The number of servings and quantity (in purchase units) sent to the other campus site should be included on the transport sheet to show the amount of food available at each location.
  - The actual milk usage by type must be recorded for each site.
  - Any menu substitutions or accommodations made for students with special dietary needs should be documented on the production record.
  - The planned serving size and number of servings prepared should be recorded on the production record separately for the pre-K students when they are not co-mingled with the K-8 students.

A modified production record template and an example of a completed production record were provided during the onsite review. Please reference the <u>Production Record Requirements</u> for the complete list of what is required to be on production records (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/production-record-requirements.pdf).

Corrective Action Needed: Submit one week of completed breakfast and lunch production records showing all production record requirements have been met. ☐ Meal Pattern Finding #6: The 3K and 4K students do not eat lunch at the same time as the kindergarten and first grade students. However, prior to the day of onsite review, the 3K and 4K students were being offered the K-8 meal pattern. Actions were taken during lunch observation on the day of review to begin using the CACFP meal pattern for these students. Corrective Action Needed: Review the Infants and Preschool in NSLP and SBP webpage and the Serving School Meals to Preschoolers handout (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunchprogram/infants-and-preschool; https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/serving-school-meals-preschoolers). Submit a written statement acknowledging that these training materials have been reviewed and the 3K and 4K students will be served meals using the CACFP meal pattern when not co-mingled going forward. ☐ Meal Pattern Finding #7: Food service staff were somewhat unclear about the Offer versus Serve (OVS) requirements for breakfast and lunch. Although all students observed at breakfast and lunch took a reimbursable meal, it is important for staff to fully understand the OVS requirements. Corrective Action Needed: Submit a certificate of training completion or a written statement detailing the Offer versus Serve training completed for the two food service staff members responsible for checking trays for reimbursable meals. Training resources from the DPI School Nutrition Team include: Offer versus Serve webcast (https://media.dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/offer-versusserve/story html5.html) Offer versus Serve - Meal or No Meal PowerPoint presentation or webcast (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/ovs-meal-or-no-meal-2018.pptx; https://media.dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/offer-versus-serve-meal-or-no-meal/story\_html5.html) Breakfast OVS handout (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/ovshandout-breakfast.pdf) ☐ Meal Pattern Finding #8: Signage was not posted at breakfast to show students what makes up a reimbursable meal. The breakfast signage must list the three components and the items offered, and must communicate to students that under Offer versus Serve (OVS), they must select at least three food items, one of which must be at least ½ cup of fruit and/or vegetable, or a combination. An item at breakfast is defined as 1.0 oz eq grain, 1.0 oz eq meat/meat alternate, ½ cup of fruit and/or vegetable, or 1 cup of milk. Signage examples can be found on our Signage webpage (https://dpi.wi.gov/schoolnutrition/national-school-lunch-program/menu-planning/signage).

**Corrective Action Needed:** Submit a picture of complete signage posted near the beginning of the breakfast service line.

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

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

- The consultant addressed financial topics with the Business Manager including how to locate the agency's Child Nutrition Program report, which provides you with a compilation of meals claimed, your reported revenues and expenditures, amount of federal reimbursement received and per meal costs for lunch and breakfast.
- The Aids Register shows the amount deducted from reimbursement to pay for shipping, handling and processing costs of USDA Foods and to track all program deposits made to the agency's account. Both resources are accessible from our <a href="Online Services">Online Services</a> webpage (dpi.wi.gov/nutrition/online-services).
- SFAs must limit the net cash resources in order to not exceed three months average expenditures.

## Annual Financial Report (AFR)

- All revenues (reimbursements and student payments) and expenses (including food, labor, equipment, purchased services, and the other category) need to be separated into each program; this will aid the school in calculating its "yearly" reference period for nonprogram food compliance which is highly recommended. The new 16-17 Annual Financial Report instructions are located on the DPI website (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/annual-financial-report-instructions.pdf).
- When a student deposits funds in their lunch account which will be used for meal purchases, the
  amount received is not treated as revenue until the meal has actually been served to the student. The
  amount of funds on hand in student accounts is treated as a deposit or liability account in either the
  foodservice fund (Fund 50) or the general fund (Fund 10) until the meal is served, at which point the
  deposit account is converted to revenue. This amount should not be recorded as revenue or part of
  the fund balance on your Annual Financial Report.
- 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".
  - o Under "Purchases Services" report any time you pay someone for services provides such as equipment repair and health inspections.
  - Under "nonprogram 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 guidance</u> (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).

## **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. Though Catholic East has a policy, It is recommended that it be updated the to reflect the current procedures and communicate the update to families. 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 https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/sp-23-2017.pdf</u>
  - 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 #1: Low balance and new student gratis meals do not have costs covered.

Corrective Action Needed: Submit a statement explaining how the agency will begin covering these costs.

## Paid Lunch Equity (PLE)

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

- The Paid Lunch Equity tool must be completed annually and prices raised accordingly with a maximum annual increase of \$0.10 (of the weighted average price) as required by regulation.
- Refer to the <u>PLE 'In a Nutshell'</u> for more information on the PLE tool (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/ple-in-a-nutshell.pdf).
- Refer to the most recent <u>memo</u> from DPI (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/snt-mail-032917.pdf).
- Refer to the most recent <u>guidance memo</u> from USDA (https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cn/SP17-2017os.pdf).
- Step by step instructions to completing the PLE tool can be found on our <u>financial website</u> under Paid Lunch Equity (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/financial).

## **Revenue from Nonprogram Foods**

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

- Nonprogram 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 nonprogram foods, including food, labor, equipment, and purchased services must be covered by revenues received from the sale of those foods. Nonprogram foods may not be supported by reimbursable meals or have a nonprogram foods loss absorbed by the food service account. Thus nonprogram foods may never run in the negative unless non-federal funds are transferred into the food service fund to cover the deficit.
- Nonprogram Food costs and revenues must be separated from Program food costs and revenues.
- Since nonprogram foods include Adult Meals and extra milk, these expenses and revenues must be separated from Program foods.
- The USDA Nonprogram Revenue Tool must be completed yearly, at a minimum. The <u>DPI Nonprogram Food Revenue Tool/Calculator</u> located on our website feeds into the USDA tool and aids in calculating prices of nonprogram foods and meeting the USDA nonprogram food regulation (http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/xls/non-program-food-price-calculator.xlsx).

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

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

#### Adult Meals

• Adult meals are considered non-program foods. Food service programs must price adult meals above the overall cost of the meals. Since adult meal costs can be difficult to calculate, SFAs must, at a minimum, follow the minimum pricing guidelines in Food Nutrition Services Instruction 782-5.

- A <u>Wisconsin Adult Meal Pricing Worksheet</u> has been developed to assist the SFA in pricing adult meals (http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/doc/wisconsin-adult-meal-pricing-guide.doc).
- Districts need to assess adult meal prices annually prior to contract submission to ensure student reimbursements are not being used to subsidize adult meals. The current reimbursement rates (2017-18 SY) should be used to determine adult prices.

#### Resources

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

#### Indirect Costs

## Comments/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:
  - o 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.

# 4. General Program Compliance

## **Civil Rights**

# Comments/Technical Assistance (TA)/Compliance Reminders

### Nondiscrimination Statement

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

### And Justice for All Poster

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

### **Civil Rights Training**

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

## Civil Rights Self-Compliance Form

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

### **Special Dietary Needs**

- All food substitutions made outside of the meal pattern requirements must be supported by a signed medical statement from a licensed medical professional. SFAs may use the <u>prototype Medical Statement</u> for Special Dietary Needs posted on the DPI website, which is also available in Spanish and Hmong (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/special-dietary-needs). Meals served to students with special dietary needs with the signed medical statement do not need to meet meal pattern requirements. Additional information on <u>special dietary needs</u> can be found on the DPI School Nutrition Team website (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/special-dietary-needs). This <u>flow chart</u> gives guidance on special dietary needs, as well (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/sdn-flowchart.pdf)
- School food service staff may make food substitutions, at their discretion, to accommodate children
  without a signed medical statement from a licensed medical practitioner. It is highly recommended
  that the SFA have a completed medical statement on file from a medical authority (which could be the
  school nurse) to support the request. These accommodations made for students must meet the USDA
  meal pattern requirements in order for the meals to be reimbursable. It is recommended that the SFA
  develop a policy for handling these types of accommodations to ensure that requests are equitable for
  everyone.
- Juice may not be substituted for fluid milk unless juice is specified as a substitution on a medical statement signed by a licensed medical practitioner. Water is available to all students, but an SFA may choose to offer lactose free milk or provide a fluid milk substitute that meets the nutritional requirements set forth by USDA. Nutrition information for a fluid milk substitute the SFA wishes to provide for students, must be approved by the SNT office. For more information on <u>fluid milk substitutes</u>, please see our Special Dietary Needs webpage (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/special-dietary-needs).
- Fluid milk substitution rules apply to all federal school nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast, and After School Snack Program, but do not apply to the Wisconsin School Day Milk Program. WSDMP allows juice as a milk substitution and is reimbursable. SFAs may offer lactose-free milk to children who have lactose intolerance without requiring DPI preapproval for use.
- The lunch service model at Catholic East HR, with respect to the K3 and K4 students must follow the CACFP meal pattern since the students are segregated from the K5 and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students. This meal pattern does not allow offer vs. serve; ALL offered meal components must be taken for a reimbursable meal. Since there is at least one student currently providing his or her own lactose-free milk from home, that child's meals are not reimbursable as all components would not be selected in the lunch line. Therefore, this product should be offered and provided by the SFA. Lactose free milk can be offered to any students as it nutritionally equivalent to cow's milk.

### **Overt Identification**

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

#### 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 <a href="USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form">USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form</a> for assistance in filing these complaints (https://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/Complain\_combined\_6\_8\_12.pdf).

### Findings and Corrective Action Needed: Civil Rights

Finding #1: Nondiscrimination statement not on menus.
<u>Corrective Action Required</u> : Please add the shortened statement and send copy of corrected menus
to reviewer.
<b>Finding #2:</b> And Justice for All poster not posted in area/building where Afterschool Snack Program is offered.
<u>Corrective Action Required</u> : Please post the post the And Justice for All poster and take a picture and
of it and send the picture to reviewer as corrective action.

### **On-site Monitoring**

## 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.
- The onsite monitoring forms have been updated to include the general areas of review and a new SBP program onsite review form found on our <u>Administrative Review</u> webpage under the SFA onsite monitoring section (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/administrative-review).
- 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).

## **Local Wellness Policy**

## 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. The final rule requires School Food Authorities (SFAs) to begin developing a revised local school wellness policy during School Year 2016-17 with full compliance of the final rule by June 30, 2017.

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 Wisconsin Wellness: Putting Policy into Practice - School Wellness Policy Toolkit (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).

## **Smart Snacks**

## **Comments/Technical Assistance/Compliance Reminders**

At the time of the on-site review there were no competitive foods or beverages sold at the Holy Rosary campus at Catholic East Elementary. 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**

### 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.

## <u>Professional Standards: New Food Service Director Hiring Requirements</u>

SFA Enrollment	SFA Enrollment	SFA Enrollment	SFA Enrollment
under 500	under 2,499	2,500 – 9,999	> 10,000
*High school diploma (or GED) <b>and</b> at least 1 year relevant experience in school nutrition	*High school diploma (or GED) <b>and</b> at least 3 years relevant experience in school nutrition	*Associate degree (or equivalent) with related academic major and at least 2 years of relevant experience in school nutrition	*Bachelor's degree (or equivalent) in any academic major <b>and</b> at least 5 years experience in school nutrition

In addition, new directors are required to obtain at least 8 hours of food safety training, either not more than 5 years prior to their starting date or completed within 30 days of their start date.

\*Note: These are minimum standards. Reference <u>USDA's summary of the Professional Standards Final Rule</u> for more information (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/profstandards\_flyer.pdf).

## Professional Standards: Training Requirements

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

## Annual Training Requirements for All Staff

- Directors: 12 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: Professional Standards

☐ Finding #1: Training is not being monitored on an acceptable tracking tool.

Corrective Action Needed: Include all current training hours for each food service employee onto the DPI tracking tool and submit as part of corrective action.

#### Water

## <u>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).

## Findings and Corrective Action: Water

☐ Finding #1: Water is not available to students or students have restricted access during meal service. Corrective Action Needed: Provide a statement of understanding regarding the requirement that water be provided to students during each meal and how water will be provided to all students during meal services moving forward.

# **Food Safety and Storage**

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

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

## **Food Safety Inspections**

- Every school operating USDA School Child Nutrition Programs must have two food safety inspections during each school year: including food safety inspection and a review of the site's Food Safety Plan.
- Food safety inspection reports must be posted in public view. Posting the food safety inspection report in the same location as the "And Justice For All" poster can be a convenient way to have both items publicly visible.

## **Temperatures**

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

#### **Food Safety Plans**

- The Food Safety Plan was available for review. 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 <a href="SNT Food Safety">SNT Food Safety</a> webpage. (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/food-safety). Please update the site overview to indicate production not satellite.
- 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.

### **Storage**

- SFAs are required to ensure that facilities for the handling, storage, and distribution of purchased and donated foods are properly safeguarded against theft, spoilage, and other loss (7 CFR 210.13(d)).
- The on-site and/or off-site storage areas were reviewed, including freezers, refrigerators, dry good storage rooms and other areas. Foods in the walk-in freezer and out of the original container were not date-marked.

## 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

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

# Time as Public Health Control

- When using "Time as a Public Health Control":
  - 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.

## Findings and Corrective Action: Food Safety

Finding #1: No SOP for the Afterschool Snack Program.
<b>Corrective Action Needed</b> : Submit copy of an SOP for the Afterschool Snack Program as an
attachment to assigned DPI Nutrition Program Consultant via email.

☐ **Finding #2**: Not following SOP for glove use or date marking supplies that are open or out of the original packaging.

<u>Corrective Action Needed</u>: Review handwashing and glove use SOPs, have all staff initial and date SOP and send copies to assigned DPI Nutrition Program Consultant via email.

# **Buy American Provision**

## **Comments/Technical Assistance/Compliance Reminders**

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 <a href="Buy American Provision webpage">Buy American Provision webpage</a> (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/procurement/buy-american).

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.

The Buy American provision should be included in solicitations, contracts, and product specifications. A reply offer to comply with Buy American terms in a solicitation ensures contractors are aware of Buy American requirements. Furthermore, bidder assurance of the Buy American provision ensures that the bidder is responsive and responsible to the solicitation.

SFAs must monitor contractor performance as required in 2 CFR Part 200.318(b), formerly in 7 CFR Part 3016.36(b)(2), to ensure that contractors perform in accordance with the terms, conditions, and specifications of their contracts or purchase orders.

- The following products may be exceptions to Buy American provisions: pineapples, mandarin oranges, olives, tuna, bananas and coffee.
- If no country of origin is identified on the label, than 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 accepted within an email.
- What is acceptable to determine compliance on a label? Label should indicate if the product is grown, processed and packed in the continental U.S. and any U.S. Territories. If the label indicates that product is distributed or packed in the U.S, but the country of origin is not listed, this product requires the distributor's certification as mentioned above.
- Any substitution of a non-domestic product for a domestic product (which was originally a part of the RFP), must be approved, in writing, by the food service director, prior to the delivery of the product to the school.

- Any non-domestic product delivered to the school, without the prior, written approval of the Food Service Director, will be rejected. Should non-domestic substitutes that were not pre-approved in writing by the food service director be delivered to and rejected by the school, selected distributor(s) shall be held accountable for all over-claims that result from failure to meet the school's required meal pattern.
- Agricultural products which are processed and produced outside of the U.S. may be accepted with
  proof from the manufacturer that poor market conditions exist (weather, and/or supply availability of
  market); this requirement applies to private labels as well as other labels.
- The SFA should maintain written procedures to ensure product received and inventory is compliant with the Buy American procedure. Sample written procurement contract management procedures and Buy American monitoring procedures can be found in the <a href="Contract Management">Contract Management</a> chapter of the Introduction to the Procurement Policy and Procedures Handbook (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/procurement/contract-procedures/contract-management). Additional Buy American monitoring procedures can be found on the <a href="Buy American Provision">Buy American Provision</a> webpage (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/procurement/buy-american/monitoring).

There are limited exceptions to the Buy American provision which allow for the purchase of products not meeting the "domestic" standard as described above ("non-domestic") in circumstances when use of domestic products is truly not practicable. Refer to SP 24-2016 for more information on the Buy American provision and limited exceptions.

More information on this new requirement, including a tool to assist with tracking noncompliant products, can be found on the SNT <u>Procurement</u> webpage (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/procurement/buy-american).

## Findings and Corrective Action Needed: Buy American Provision

- Buy American Finding #1: The following products were identified in SFA's storage area as non-domestic and not listed on a Buy American Noncompliant List:
  - Canned apricot halves China
  - Canned Mandarin oranges China
  - Green peppers Mexico

**Corrective Action Needed:** Begin using a Noncompliant Product List for tracking nondomestic products. Submit a copy of the completed form for the three products listed above. A <u>template form</u> is located on the procurement webpage (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/doc/buy-american-noncompliant-list.docx).

## Reporting and Recordkeeping

### 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

## 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.

## **Breakfast Promotion**

The breakfast participation at Catholic East Elementary School is low compared to participation at lunch. Therefore, it is suggested that ideas for increasing participation be considered. One idea would be to look at offering breakfast in the classroom or a mid-morning breakfast model (either out of the kitchen or in the classroom). More information about potential breakfast service models as well as financial models can be found in the <a href="Serving up a Successful School Breakfast Program">Serving up a Successful School Breakfast Program</a> guide (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/school-breakfast-program).

A <u>Breakfast in the Classroom Toolkit</u> is also available if that option is considered (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/school-breakfast-program/resources).

Parents play an important role in School Breakfast Program participation. A video was developed to help show parents the benefits that the School Breakfast Program provides for them and their children. This video along with a brochure can be found on our Resources for the School Breakfast Program webpage, in the Marketing Breakfast section (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/school-breakfast-program/resources).

For more ideas on breakfast menus, visit our On, Wisconsin! Cycle Menu or look up menus for other schools in Wisconsin.

- <u>Cycle Menu Resources</u> (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/menu-planning/cycle-menu)
- <u>School Breakfast Menus on the Web</u> (http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/school-breakfast-menus-on-the-web.pdf)

National School Breakfast Week is in the spring each year. This is a great time to promote your breakfast program, try new recipes, incorporate activities, etc. to increase participation.

- School Breakfast is promoted in the Back-to-School newsletter, monthly menus and throughout the year in the newsletter.
- Continue to promote participation in the School Breakfast Program with fun menus or promotions.

#### Summer Meals

A goal of USDA Child Nutrition Programs is to ensure all students have access to healthy and nutritious meals year-round. USDA requires all SFAs to inform families of where their students can receive a free meal in the summer months, even if the school is not participating in the Summer Food Service Program. 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

## 5. Other Federal Programs Reviews

#### **Afterschool Snacks**

## **Comments/Technical Assistance/Compliance Reminders**

- 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**

in the correct portion sizes, were provided to each student for the afterschool program.  Corrective Action Required: Please provide your plan on how documentation will be maintained to identify what food items are served, serving sizes, and total quantity served.
<b>Finding #2:</b> Four (4) snacks were claimed for reimbursement, with only one component. <b>Corrective Action Required</b> : Please provide a statement of understanding regarding what constitutes a reimbursable snack. Fiscal Action will be assessed for the 4 non-reimbursable snacks. The \$600 disregard does apply.

"The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has a vision that every student will graduate prepared for college and career. 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 lifelong 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)."



With School Nutrition Programs!