USDA Child Nutrition Programs Administrative Review Summary Report

School Food Authority: Cumberland School District Agency Code: 681141

School(s) Reviewed: Longfellow Elementary

Review Date(s): February 6-8, 2018 Date of Exit Conference: February 8, 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 <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 Clintonville School District 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 Longfellow for their willingness to make changes to meet school nutrition program regulations. The staff is concerned for the nutritional well-being of their students as evidenced through food safety, menu, service, local wellness, Reviewers were impressed during meal service that students were provided a wonderful meal service in short period of time to students at Longfellow.

REVIEW AREAS

1. MEAL ACCESS AND REIMBURSEMENT

Certification and Benefit Issuance

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

331 eligibility determinations were reviewed, 0 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.
- All free/reduced applications and the direct certification runs were available for review. All
 applications have been approved and students are receiving the benefits they have been determined
 eligible for.

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.

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.

Effective Date of Eligibility

• SFAs may establish the date of submission of an application as the effective date of eligibility, rather than the date the application is reviewed and eligibility is determined. This flexibility applies only to complete applications containing all required information. See SP 11-2014 for more information. The SNT must be contacted prior to implementing this flexibility for approval. Contact Karrie Isaacson at karrie.isaacson@dpi.wi.gov for more information and approval.

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 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)

- 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).

Direct Certification

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

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.

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 <u>Sharing Information with Other Programs</u> 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: The finding was that when the application was determined and then signed by determining official, it was then reviewed again and a signature was supplied in the confirming official's signature box. The confirming official's signature is only required during the verification process.

Corrective Action Needed: Please review the initial determining process for meals. Please submit a statement how this process will be corrected in the future.

Verification

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

- When applications are chosen for verification, the person designated as the Confirming Official must review the application(s) to ensure the initial determination is correct prior to contacting the family. There is a place for the Confirming Official to sign and date on the back of the application.
- When a benefit eligibility status increases, the change must take place within 3 days. When a benefit eligibility decreases, the change cannot take place before 10 calendar days and a notice of adverse action is sent in writing with appeal rights procedures.

Findings and Corrective Action Needed: Verification

☐ **Finding #1**: The finding was there was not a confirmation review conducted at the time the verification process took place.

Corrective Action Needed: Please review the verification website and submit a statement on how this process will be corrected in the future.

Meal Counting and Claiming

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

- Meals may only be charged to a student upon receipt of a reimbursable meal to assure proper benefits issuance.
- When entering the claim it is necessary to use the edit check (Acclaim in Skyward) to calculate your reimbursable meals by each 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).
- 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.

Findings and Corrective Action Needed: Meal Counting and Claiming

Finding #1: The finding was that the two schools Longfellow and Dellwood were coded as one entity
and thus showed up in the edit check (acclaim) together. The food service director was then breaking
this out. This is not an acceptable practice.

Corrective Action Needed: When entering the claim it is necessary to use the edit check (Acclaim) to calculate your reimbursable meals by each site. Each site must have their own edit check to view before submitting the claim. Please submit a month of a corrected edit check for each school site.

Finding #2: The finding was at the secondary level schools some students paid <i>cash</i> for their
reimbursable meals. These meals were not included in the edit check and were taken from the daily
activity report. These cash meals were then added to the (Acclaim) edit check numbers, totaled and
then submitted for claiming

Corrective Action Needed: Please submit a statement on how this will be corrected.

☐ Finding #3: The finding was that the a few second meals were being sold to students at the secondary level and being charged an adult price. This is not acceptable. These food items would need to be priced individually.

Corrective action Needed: Please submit a statement on how this will be corrected.

2. MEAL PATTERN AND NUTRITIONAL QUALITY

Thank you to all of the nutrition professionals at Longfellow Elementary for their warm welcome and cooperation during the Administrative Review. A special thanks to the Food Service Director for providing documentation and answering questions prior to coming on-site, as this greatly expedited the review process. The efforts to use fruit in light syrup and other reduced-fat and low-fat products were noted. The nutrition professionals are very knowledgeable and have excellent food safety and sanitation practices. The kitchen and lunchroom are clean and well organized. Thank you for all of your hard work and making your Child Nutrition Programs shine!

Technical Assistance

Printed Menu

• The printed menu should list all components included with the reimbursable meal. Currently, the daily cereal and Bug Bites are not listed on the monthly breakfast menu. Please include all components included with the reimbursable meals on your printed menu.

Reimbursable Meal Signage

- Breakfast and lunch signage were posted and filled in with the daily menu. However, breakfast signage did not specify the number of food items that each menu item was planned as nor the correct number of items from each component that students could select. Technical assistance was provided and signage was filled in with February 7, 2018's number of food items and the correct number of items from each component that students may select.
 - o Grain (students may take up to 2 food items)
 - Cereal/Bug Bites = 2 food items
 - Waffles = 2 food items
 - Fruit (students may take up to 2 food items, but not 2 juices)
 - Mandarin oranges = 1 food item
 - Juice = 1 food item
 - Milk (students may take up to 1 food item)
 - Fat-free chocolate = 1 food item
 - 1% white = 1 food item
 - Fat-free white = 1 food item
 - Extra
 - Syrup
- Large breakfast and lunch signage posted by point of service (POS) do not have the required statement indicating that students must take at least ½ cup fruit or vegetable. Breakfast signage also does not have the correct non-discrimination statement.
- Samples of signage that can be printed or updated and implemented in your school can be found
 on our <u>Signage Resources</u> webpage (dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunchprogram/menu-planning/signage). If you are interested in ordering **free** signage from SNT, please
 visit the <u>Team Nutrition</u> webpage and complete the Resource Order Form located at the bottom
 of the webpage (https://dpi.wi.gov/team-nutrition).

Production Records

- Production records should be detailed and specific in order to ensure the correct products and portions of products are offered to students to meet daily and weekly meal pattern requirements. Based on the "Must Haves and Nice to Haves" list for production records, (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/production-record-requirements.pdf), Longfellow Elementary's production records are missing:
 - Recipe numbers
 - Product names/descriptions
 - Total number of portions prepared

- While there is a space for total number of planned portions, this is not filled out on production records. Please include the above information on production records and also fill in the total number of planned portions.
- More production record guidance and detailed explanations of production record sections can be found on the <u>Instructions for Completing Production Records</u> PDF (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/production-recordinstructions.pdf).
- While there is not a required production record template, there are some examples that may be used on DPI's <u>Production Records</u> webpage (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/menu-planning/production-records).

Standardized Recipes

- Recipes used during the week of review were lacking pieces of essential information necessary for standardized recipes:
 - o Recipe numbers
 - Specific brands and/or product numbers
 - Total volume/measure
 - Pan sizes
 - Number of pans
 - Weight or volume in each pan
- For more information, please see the <u>Standardized Recipe Checklist</u>
 (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/standardized-recipe-checklist.pdf). For additional information on recipe standardization, please see DPI's <u>Recipe Tools and Resources</u> webpage (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/menu-planning/recipes).

Milk, Cereal, and Juice Recipes

- If it becomes too time- or labor-intensive to record milk usage by type on production records, you may consider using a milk recipe. A milk recipe is documentation of average milk usage by meal (breakfast or lunch) and grade group. When a milk recipe is on file, total milk usage must still be recorded on production records, but it does not need to be recorded by type. Milk recipes must be updated twice per year or when you notice that students' preferences have changed. You can find instructions and a milk recipe template on our Meal Pattern Components webpage, under the milk heading (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/menuplanning/meal-pattern#milk).
- Cereal and juice varieties can also have recipes. The same procedures can be followed for cereal and juice as they are for milk.

Garden Bar

Because the 50/50 romaine/iceberg mix on the garden bar is being used to meet the dark green vegetable subgroup requirement, the planned portion size of 1/2 cup each should be communicated to students with signage as well as how it credits as ¼ cup. Consider including a photo of what 1/2 cup of 50/50 romaine/iceberg mix looks like or using an appropriate serving utensil, instead of tongs, for 1/2 cup of 50/50 romaine/iceberg mix.

- The dill dip on the garden bar uses spoons as serving utensils. Since these spoons are not portion utensils, this does not accurately reflect what the intended portion size, 1 Tbsp, of dill dip is. Consider using a portion utensil and/or squeeze bottle with signage for dip.
- There were three non-reimbursable meals observed during lunch service on February 6, 2018. The three meals were non-reimbursable due to insufficient vegetable being chosen from the garden bar, denying of hot vegetable choices, and denying of fruit option to meet the ½ cup fruit and/or vegetable requirement under Offer Versus Serve. Garden bar production records are very detailed, including the number of pieces of each vegetable crediting as ¼ cup. Consider posting signage to communicate these numbers to students. This will help students to select a reimbursable meal and will also help POS staff during meal service.

Condiments

- Condiments can be significant sources of calories, saturated fat, and sodium in a meal, especially
 when usage is not controlled. Promote correct serving sizes by adding signage at the condiment
 station with a photo of what one tablespoon of Ranch dressing looks like, purchasing single-use
 one ounce cups to aid in portion control, or using signage such as "One squeeze, please!" on selfserve squirt bottles.
- Syrup at breakfast was supervised and served by a school staff member. This is an excellent way to control portion sizes and to ensure the correct portion size is served.

Offer Versus Serve (OVS)

- Although all students observed at breakfast took a reimbursable meal, it is important for staff to fully understand the OVS requirements. There were three non-reimbursable meals observed during lunch that were related to the ½ cup fruit, vegetable, or combination requirement. There is some confusion over the difference between OVS and the planned menu. The planned menu must be in compliance with all meal pattern requirements, both daily and weekly. OVS occurs only during meal service.
- The <u>Offer Versus Serve Guidance manual</u> is available on DPI's website (http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/offer-versus-serve-guidance-manual.pdf). DPI SNT's <u>Training webpage</u> also has a webcast available, which outlines the OVS requirements for breakfast and lunch (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/training/webcasts#ovs).

Crediting Grains in Recipe

- The Whole-Grain Homemade Bread credits as 1.25 ounce equivalents (oz eq) based on grams of creditable grain in the product. The production record shows the bread crediting as 1 oz eq. The FSD explained this was credited based on weight of the final product.
- Crediting based on grams of creditable grain:
 - Whole grain white wheat flour 2# (pound) 8 oz (ounce) for 5 loaves (16 slices/loaf or 80 slices/5 loaves)
 - 40 oz whole grain white wheat flour x 28.35 grams/oz = 1,134 grams
 - 1,134 grams/80 slices = 14.175 grams
 - Flour (enriched bread) 1# 4 oz for 5 loaves
 - 20 oz flour (enriched bread) x 28.35 grams/oz = 567 grams
 - 567 grams/80 slices = 7.1 grams
 - 14.175 grams + 7.1 grams = 21.275 grams

- 21.275 grams/ 16 grams creditable grain = 1.32 oz
 - = 1.25 oz eq grain (round down to the nearest 0.25 oz eq)
- For more information and detailed instructions please see <u>The Interactive Food Buying Guide</u>
 <u>Grains Resource</u> under "Worksheet for Calculating Grains Contribution Using Grams of
 Creditable Grains" (https://foodbuyingguide.fns.usda.gov/FoodComponents/ResourceGrains).

Training

 DPI conducts School Nutrition Skills Development Courses (SNSDC) each summer in various locations around the state. Travel and meal expenses are allowable food service expenses and may be reimbursed through the school's nonprofit food service fund. Information, including dates and locations, will be posted on the DPI <u>Training</u> webpage as they are scheduled (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/training).

Findings and Corrective Action Needed:

Finding #1: Signage for breakfast and lunch do not include the required statement that students must take ½ cup fruit, vegetable, or combination. Breakfast signage does not indicate the number of food items each menu item contributes as. Breakfast signage also does not have the correct number of food items students may select from each component.

Corrective Action Needed: Send a picture of new or supplemental signage that has been posted and filled in for breakfast and lunch that includes the $\frac{1}{2}$ cup fruit, vegetable, or combination statement.

Finding #2: Offer Versus Serve training should be completed by nutrition professionals of Longfellow Elementary to ensure that reimbursable meals are offered and served. There is an Offer Versus Serve webcast on DPI's website that can be used for training (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/training/webcasts#ovs). The Offer Versus Serve Guidance manual is available on DPI's website as well (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/offer-versus-serve-guidance-manual.pdf).

Corrective Action Needed: Please submit a signed training roster confirming that staff at Longfellow Elementary completed Offer versus Serve training.

Finding #3: Three non-reimbursable meals were observed during lunch service on February 6, 2018. All three meals did not contain the full $\frac{1}{2}$ cup fruit, vegetable, or combination requirement.

Corrective Action Needed: Submit a written statement on how errors will be corrected and avoided in the future.

Corrective Action: Fiscal action will be assessed on these three non-reimbursable meals.

3. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Nonprofit School Food Service Account

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

Annual Financial Report (AFR)

- All revenues (reimbursements and student payments) and expenses (including food, labor, equipment, purchased services, and the other category) need to be separated into each program; this will aid the school in calculating its "yearly" reference period for 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".
 - "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 "Ala Carte", 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 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 a food expenditure.

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).

Unpaid Meal Charge Policy

- USDA Policy Memorandum SP 46-2016 requires all SFAs operating federal school meal programs to have a written and clearly communicated policy that addresses unpaid meal charges. For a snap-shot on what the policy must include, see the <u>Unpaid Meal Charges In a "Nutshell"</u> (http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/unpaid-meal-charges-nutshell.pdf). For a more comprehensive overview, see SP 23-2017: <u>Unpaid Meal Charges Guidance</u> (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/sp-23-2017.pdf).
 - Best Practices
 - Local meal charge policy checklist
 - Sample outstanding balance letter
 - Sample robo-call script

Technical assistance was given regarding collection procedures pertaining to the unpaid meal balance policy that families receive in a written format.

Paid Lunch Equity (PLE)

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

- Thank you for completing the Paid Lunch Equity tool each year and adhering to the pricing requirements.
- 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.

Revenue from Nonprogram Foods

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

Non-program tool was completed. Great job on running the tool!

- 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.
- The USDA Nonprogram Revenue Tool must be completed yearly, at a minimum. The DPI
 Nonprogram Food Revenue Tool/Calculator located on our website feeds into the USDA tool and aids in calculating prices of 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).

Nonprogram food revenue	Total nonprogram food costs	
Total program and nonprogram revenue	Total program and nonprogram food co	sts

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)
- Nonprogram Foods In a "Nutshell" (http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/nonprogram-foods-in-a-nutshell.pdf)

Indirect Costs

Commendations/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:
 - Rent consultation with knowledgeable resource person on appropriate charges per facility (i.e., local reality broker who has knowledge of current rates for rent of similar facilities).
 - Utility charges separately metered or current usage study by the local utility company.
 - Labor expenditures based on actual amount of time worked specifically for the purpose of school food service times the employee's wages and benefits.
 - Printing/publishing documentation of actual costs or documentation to support how these costs were prorated from the district's total costs, based on volume.
 - Waste disposal services, extermination services, and laundry services documentation of actual costs or documentation to support how these costs were prorated from the district's total.

4. GENERAL PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

Civil Rights

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

Nondiscrimination Statement

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

And Justice for All Poster

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

Civil Rights Training

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

Civil Rights Self-Compliance Form

• The <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.

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

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.
- 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).

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. 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).

Findings and Corrective Action Needed: Local Wellness Policy

Technical Assistance: The final Local School Wellness Policy Implementation Under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 rule requires the SFA to review and update the local school wellness policy on a periodic basis. The frequency of updates is based on the content and structure of the plan. It is recommended that this review occur annually.

Technical Assistance: The final *Local School Wellness Policy Implementation Under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010* rule requires the SFA to allow parents, students, physical education teachers, school health professionals, school administrators, the school board, representatives of the SFA, and the general public to be involved in the development, implementation, periodic review, and update of the LWP.

SFA wellness committees should include a diverse team of committed school and community stakeholders. The SFA must retain documentation on stakeholders who participated in the review and update of the LWP.

Technical Assistance: The final Local School Wellness Policy Implementation Under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 rule requires the SFA to retain documentation that notifies potential stakeholders of

their ability to participate in the development, review, update, and implementation of the local school wellness policy (LWP).

SFAs are required to actively seek members for the wellness committee that represent a diverse group and to the extent possible, allow them to participate. SFAs must document stakeholders invited to participate in the committee and their relationship to the SFA.

SFAs are encouraged to notify key stakeholders through various methods of communication. This may include a district-wide email, the posting of flyers at community locations, or a newspaper posting. For information on forming a wellness committee, review pages 5-6 of the <u>Wisconsin Wellness: Putting Policy into Practice - School Wellness Policy Toolkit</u> (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/wellness-policy/toolkit).

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
 (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/smart-snacks).
- All food fundraisers must be tracked SFA-wide to assure compliance with the regulation. Copies of the tools are available on our <u>Smart Snacks</u> webpage (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/nationalschool-lunch-program/smart-snacks).

The Wisconsin DPI allows two fundraiser exemptions per student organization per school per school year, not to exceed two consecutive weeks each. An exempt fundraiser may sell foods and beverages that are not allowable under the Smart Snacks rule, but sales may not occur in the meal service area during meal service times. All exempt fundraisers must be documented. Templates, such as the Exempt Fundraiser Tracking Tool, are available on the Smart Snacks webpage, under the resources heading (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/smart-snacks).

- Documentation is required for school fundraisers. Keeping records of school fundraisers, both
 compliant and noncompliant, using DPI-provided tracking tools, is a great way to make sure
 schools are meeting Smart Snacks regulations.
 - At the time of the on-site review there were no competitive foods or beverages sold at Longfellow 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.
- The Smart Snacks Standards represent the minimum standards and the exemption policy represents the maximum exemptions allowed; school food authorities (SFAs) have the discretion to establish additional restrictions on competitive foods and further limit fundraiser exemptions through their Local School Wellness Policy if they are consistent with federal requirements.

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.

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

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).
 Technical assistance was provided regarding documenting hours for non-food service staff with
 duties in the NSLP.

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.

<u>Water</u>

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

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

Food Safety and Storage

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

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

Food Safety Inspections

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

Temperatures

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

Food Safety Plans

- 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 <u>SNT Food Safety</u> webpage.
 (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/food-safety)

Food Employee Reporting Agreements

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

Storage

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

Buy American

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

• The USDA requires that 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.

- 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/schoolnutrition/procurement/buy-american).

Products were identified in SFA's storage area as non-domestic and were listed on the SFA's Buy American – Noncompliant List or SFA equivalent form. Good job in tracking these items!

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.
- 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.

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 <u>Summer Food</u> website (http://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks)

Resources:

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

5. OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS REVIEWS

Afterschool Snacks

Commendations/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 Afterschool Snack Program webpage (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/after-school).

Wisconsin School Day Milk Program (WSDMP)

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

Wisconsin School Day Milk Program is a program that requires the distribution of free milk to free and reduced priced students in K-5. The Point of Service Counts (POS) for the Wisconsin School Day Program must be recorded for students who are checked off upon receipt of milk.

Per the Agreement, the SFA agrees to serve Wisconsin-produced milk. Please check with your distributor to see if they can verify that and you may want to include that stipulation in your milk bid.

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).



With School Nutrition Programs!