# USDA Child Nutrition Programs Administrative Review Summary Report

School Food Authority: Neenah Joint School District Agency Code: 70-3892

School(s) Reviewed: Coolidge Elem. School, Shattuck Middle School, Spring Road Elem. School

Review Date(s): January 28 - February 1, 2019 Date of Exit Conference: February 1, 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 the Neenah Joint School District and the staff at the review sites 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 and willingness of the staff to make changes to meet school nutrition program regulations. All staff were very helpful. The staff in the kitchens where meal observations occurred were friendly with the students and knew most if not all of them by name.

The DPI review team is confident that Neenah Joint School District 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 490 eligibility determinations were reviewed, 3 errors were identified. Nice job!

## Free and Reduced Price Meal Applications

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

## **Annual Income**

• There has been a recent modification to the requirement pertaining to the reporting of annual income on an application. USDA released SP-19, 2017 on March 20, 2017 allowing households to report current income as an *annual figure*. Annual income is typically reported for households with jobs that are seasonal, self-employed, or agricultural work since that is a more accurate representation of *current income*. These applications may now be processed at face value. However, most households

that receive regular pay checks, will report income based on what is *currently earned* and the frequency of that pay, i.e. weekly, biweekly, bimonthly or monthly.

## **Income Eligibility Guidelines**

- The current <u>Income Eligibility Guidelines</u> (IEGs) are used to determine applications, whether manually
  or electronically. If done through software, please check that the income levels are updated each year
  after July 1.
- The complete IEG grid may not be sent to the households applying for meal benefits as they include the specific income amounts for free or reduced benefits. Therefore, the Public Release may not be sent to households, either. The information letter must include the reduced price guidelines and an explanation that households with incomes at or below the reduced price income limit may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Typically, the information letter is the USDA template entitled <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 the eligibility 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.
- Additionally, the originally downloaded file from the State records must be saved in it is original
  format. The header at the top must be included as it is the proof of the run and the eligibility date.

## **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.
- Neenah had a .61% 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 <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

u	Finding #1: Incorrect version/year of Public Release form in use (Indicates incorrect income
	guidelines). Form dated 2014.
	<u>Corrective Action Needed:</u> Please provide a statement of understanding that the correct version of
	the public release form will be obtained from the DPI website after July 1st of each year.
	Finding #2: Hearing Official cannot be an FSMC employee.
	Corrective Action Needed: Please update the contract to indicate a new hearing official. The hearing
	official must be unique to the other 3 officials. Corrected on-site. No further action necessary.

## ☐ Finding #3:

- 1. The district is sharing individual free and reduced meal eligibilities for local initiatives like school fee waivers and athletic fee waivers without listing each fee on the waiver.
- 2. Local officials with access to free and reduced data do not have USDA disclosure agreements on file.

### **Corrective Action Needed:**

- 1. Submit a written statement explaining how the district will indicate each fee for which a fee could be waived by an eligible family on the sharing form.
- 2. Submit copies of the signed <u>disclosure agreement form</u> (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/free-reduced-applications#sharing-disclosure) for anyone working outside of food service, who is determined to need access to this information (e.g., IT, secretaries handling local fee waivers, staff handling state/federal reporting individual F/R data). The goal is to limit the number of people who need to know this information and make sure these individuals understand the consequences of improper sharing/release of this information.

**Note:** aggregate data (just F/R numbers or percentages without a connection to individual names does not require prior parental sign-off before sharing and often times satisfies the request).

□ Finding #4: Language of Direct Certification letter needs correction. The letter indicates, "if one or more children in the household are eligible based on direct certification, free meal eligibility must be extended to all children in the household." Free benefits are not extended with a direct certification "Z" code (reduced). A direct certification "E" code (foster) does not extend to other children in the household.

<u>Corrective Action Needed</u>: Please update the language regarding extension of benefits and send the corrected letter as corrective action.

☐ **Finding #5**: "Frequently Asked Questions" About Free and Reduced-price Meals not included with application materials on district website.

<u>Corrective Action Needed</u>: Please update the application packet online to include the FAQ document. Send pdf of new packet to reviewer.

**Note:** aggregate data (just F/R numbers or percentages without a connection to individual names does not require prior parental sign-off before sharing and often times satisfies the request).

## **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.

# **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 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: Counting and claiming for field trips is occurring with an order sheet. Federal
reimbursement is provided for each meal that meets program requirements and is served to an
eligible student. To obtain this reimbursement, school personnel must accurately count, reore and
claim the number of meals actually served to eligible students.
<b>Corrective Action Needed:</b> Please submit a statement indicating how the district will count and claim
field trip reimbursable meals going forward.

Ш	Finding #2: During breakfast in the classroom at Spring Road Elementary School, some classrooms
	allow students to mark themselves as having taken a breakfast bag. This is not allowed. Federal
	reimbursement is provided for each meal that meets program requirements and is served to an
	eligible student. To obtain this reimbursement, school personnel must accurately count, record and claim
	the number of meals actually served to students by category, i.e., paid, reduced-price, and free. Fiscal action
	will be assessed from the beginning the 18-19 school year.

<u>Corrective Action Needed</u>: Please correct this point of service issue, ensure all classrooms have a valid point of service and submit 30 days of correct breakfast meal counts for Spring Road School. This will be subject to fiscal action.

# 2. MEAL PATTERN AND NUTRITIONAL QUALITY

### Commendations

Thank you to the food service staff at Neenah Joint School District for working to provide documentation as requested during the review. Staff was friendly, professional and willing to implement changes on-site. Thank you for all you do for the students at Neenah!

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

#### Documentation

Any processed product that is not listed in the USDA *Food Buying Guide* for Child Nutrition Programs requires a current Child Nutrition (CN) label or a detailed product formulation statement (PFS) to credit toward the meal pattern. A complete PFS must be directly from the manufacturer and include the product name and number; weights of raw and cooked ingredients; portion size; statement of contribution to meal pattern requirements; and an original signature from the manufacturer certifying that the information is

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

Overall, production records are being filled in fairly completely. However, there are a couple improvements that could be made. A list of production record requirements ("Must Haves and Nice to Haves") and sample production record templates can be found on our Production Records webpage (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/menu-planning/production-records).

- The Quantity prepared column is being filled in with the number of servings rather than the quantity prepared in purchase units (pounds, cases, loaves, #10 cans, etc.)
- Actual fruit and juice varieties served must be recorded on the production records
  - When multiple varieties are offered (such as fruit), planned and actual usage should be recorded separately for each item (ex. apples and halos)
- Remember to update portion size when menu items are changed (ex. 1 cup of romaine was changed to ½ cup coleslaw, 1 each fruit changed to 2 halos)
- For a la carte only items, a quantity should not be recorded in the "plan svgs reimb" column
- It is recommend that crediting information be deleted or crossed off for any items that are not being credited towards meal pattern requirements, such as salami

#### Meal Pattern Crediting

Portion sizes served must be full, level scoops in standardized measuring utensils. The chicken taco meat recipe call for 2.8 ounce (oz) cooked chicken meat served with a heaping #8 scoop. This is strongly discouraged as it can be difficult to ensure consistent portions are provided with heaping scoops. Instead, the proper utensil that will provide at least 2.8 oz when a full, level scoop is used should be determined.

Rich's Rip Stick breadstick 08818 credits as 0.75 ounce equivalent (oz eq) of grain rather than 1 oz eq as shown on the production record.

Raspberry nutrigrain bar credits as 0.75 oz eq grain with a PFS (0.5 oz eq using Exhibit A). This is a breakfast item, but was not served during the week of review. It does not count as a full food item and does not meet the daily minimum grain requirement at breakfast.

#### Menu Planning

Cheddar goldfish and cheez-it's are planned together as a breakfast entrée option every other week on the elementary breakfast menu. Additional variety, rather than offering two similar (cheddar cracker) grain options at the same meal is encouraged.

If food costs and/or food waste are a concern, rather than pre-bagging all breakfast items, except milk, consider offering one of the fruit options (either the  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup fruit or 4 fl oz juice) separately so students have the option to decline it while still selecting a reimbursable meal.

## Signage & Offer versus Serve (OVS)

Students cannot be required to take additional items if they have selected a reimbursable meal under OVS. During lunch at Spring Road, a few of the younger students were told by a teacher that they needed to take a second serving of fruit or vegetable. One student who had 2 carrots, raisins and an entrée was told by the server that they needed more carrots because it wasn't a full serving. Additional OVS training for all staff is encouraged.

Better communication of fruit and vegetable requirements and portion sizes for the garden bar is needed. Students as well as point of service (POS) staff should be clear on the quantity of various items needed in order to meet the ½ cup fruit/vegetable requirement under OVS.

- <u>Salad Bar Signage</u> showing the number of carrots, grapes, etc. needed to equal ½ (or ¼) cup (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/menu-planning/signage) can be posted.
  - This can either be determined by slicing/dicing the item and seeing how many are needed to fill the desired portion utensil OR using the Food Buying Guide to determine the weight of the desired portion and then weighing the item to figure out quantity needed. <a href="In-house vield study">In-house vield study</a> procedures may be helpful in this process (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/menu-planning#ihy)

#### Breakfast participation and alternative service models

Breakfast participation in the Neenah School District has room for improvement. In 2017-2018, average daily participation in the School Breakfast Program was less than 44% that of the average daily participation in the National School Lunch Program. Looking specifically at students eligible for free and reduced price meals, only about 59 out of every 100 kids eating lunch also ate breakfast. This is partially due to breakfast not being offered at every site in the district, leaving students at these sites without access to a reimbursable breakfast.

A second chance breakfast cart is offered at Shattuck in addition to the traditional breakfast, which is great! We recommend additional experimentation to continue to increase participation. This could include moving the entire breakfast service after the bell either using cart/s or having students come to the cafeteria, offering additional menu options etc. Breakfast in the classroom is offered at Spring Road Elementary, but there are still several elementary schools in the district that do not participate in the School Breakfast Program. In order to ensure all students in the district are starting the day fed and ready to learn, expanding breakfast to these remaining sites is strongly encouraged.

Our <u>breakfast resources webpage</u> (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/school-breakfast-program/resources) contains a wealth of information about the different breakfast service and financial models. For questions on breakfast models or ideas to increase participation, contact the <u>School Breakfast Program Specialists</u> (DPISBP@dpi.wi.gov).

Lastly, consider sending this <u>School Breakfast brochure</u> to families and caregivers to promote the benefits of breakfast.

## Findings and Corrective Action Needed: Meal Pattern

☐ Finding #1: Several standardized recipes in use do not accurately reflect the actual products used. Any deviation from a standardized recipe requires that recipe to be re-standardized, to ensure yield and crediting information are accurate.

Corrective Action Needed: Please submit updated standardized recipes for the following:

- Chicken quesadilla change from diced chicken to fajita chicken. Specify actual product used as documentation was provided for multiple fajita chicken products (Tyson, USDA, Pilgrim's Pride), which all credit differently
- Chicken alfredo specify which diced chicken is used on recipe as documentation was submitted for multiple diced chicken products
  - Amount of chicken per serving should be consistent despite recipe scaling.
     Currently, 1 serving = 2.75 oz chicken, 50 servings = 2.72 oz chicken, portion size in recipe = 2.8 oz chicken
- o Chicken taco meat using fajita chicken vs. diced chicken
- Cheeseburger recipe calls for 2.5 oz advance pierre, documentation provided for 2.17 oz JTM (WI State Processed)
- Scrambled egg pizza recipe calls for precooked scrambled eggs, Cargill 40927, but this product is not used per SFA
- o Three cheese grilled cheese update to reflect actual cheese quantities used
- o Toasted triple cheese flatbread update to reflect actual cheese quantities used
- o Triple cheese panini update to reflect actual cheese quantities used
- o Italian chicken flatbread update to specify diced chicken product used
- o Italian sausage pizza update to reflect actual amount of cheese used for each recipe yield

☐ Finding #2: Croutons are needed to ensure the weekly minimum grain requirement is met for the salad option on the Build Your Own bar at Shattuck Middle. Therefore an appropriate serving size utensil should be used (rather than tongs), croutons should be pre-portioned or an additional grain option should be offered to students selecting a salad.

**Corrective Action Needed: S**ubmit a written statement describing your plans for ensuring that students are offered and encouraged to select the full planned serving size of croutons.

☐ Finding #3: It was unclear to students and staff at Shattuck what breakfast items could/must be selected in order to make a reimbursable meal. The number of food items each menu item was planned as and what combinations could be selected was not well communicated.

Although all students observed at breakfast took a reimbursable meal, it is important for staff to fully understand the offer versus serve (OVS) requirements. The <u>Offer Versus Serve Guidance manual</u> and the <u>Offer Versus Serve Webcast</u> can be used as training resources

(https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/offer-versus-serve-guidance-manual.pdf, https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/training/webcasts).

**Corrective Action Needed:** Submit photos or copies of additional signage posted to communicate how a reimbursable breakfast can be selected. Additionally, please submit details regarding when and where training on OVS was held, who attended, and how the training was conducted.

☐ Finding #4: A soft pretzel is offered as a reimbursable meal entrée option for lunch at Shattuck along with 2 cheese sticks. However, the cheese sticks are kept in a cooler separate from the pretzels. It is important that students are aware that when selecting the pretzel, they also have access to the cheese sticks as part of their meal in order to provide all components of the meal pattern.

**Corrective Action Needed:** This option should be clearly communicated through additional signage and/or verbal communication. Submit a statement describing what changes will be made to ensure that students are aware of their ability to select two cheese sticks with their pretzel option.

☐ Finding #5: For Breakfast in the Classroom at Spring Road Elementary, not enough white milk was sent to ensure all students have access to a variety of milk. Most classrooms were only sent 1 or 2 white milk and the rest were chocolate. As a reminder, all students should have ready access to at least two different types of milk without having to request the other variety.

**Corrective Action Needed:** Submit a written statement describing changes made to ensure all students in each classroom are offered a variety of milk.

□ Finding #6: Field trip meals served on the day of observation at Spring Road Elementary contained 3 ounces of baby carrots by weight. This is equal of 0.6 cups of vegetables, which does not meet the daily minimum requirement of ¾ cup vegetable. This resulted in a daily vegetable shortage at lunch.

**Corrective Action Needed:** Submit a written statement describing the changes that will be made to correct this shortage. Be specific. and indicate item if you will increase the portion size of the carrots or add an additional vegetable to field trip meals.

☐ Finding #7: As production records are documentation that reimbursable meals are offered and also serve as a tool to communicate crediting information to staff, it is essential that they are accurate. Update production records with the following changes:

- Build Your Own bar (nacho/deli/salad bar)
  - o Using a cut up spicy breaded chicken patty vs. buffalo popcorn chicken
  - Quantities recorded do not match column headings (the same number is recorded in multiple columns asking for different information)
  - Quantities recorded do not have units
- The recipe number for the chicken and cheese quesadilla at the middle school is incorrect (this recipe indicated on the production record would result in a weekly grain shortage)
- The garlic twist credits as 0.75 oz eg grain

**Corrective Action Needed:** Submit a week of updated lunch production records for Shattuck Middle.

□ Finding #8: The Hard-boiled egg and go-gurt entrée option that was planned for breakfast at Spring Road Elementary on the scheduled day of observation (1/30/19) as well as on 1/16/19 was missing the grain component. This was noted and corrected prior being served on either date. However, this entrée was served during the review period (12/5/18), and is therefore subject to fiscal action at each site that it was offered.

**Corrective Action Needed:** Submit breakfast meal counts for each site that the hard-boiled egg/go-gurt option was offered on 12/5/18.

☐ **Finding #9:** Acceptable crediting documentation was not available for:

- Spicy chicken patty used on the Build Your Own bar
- Liquid egg used for scrambled eggs and scrambled eggs with cheddar cheese

Pork Italian Pizza Sausage, Tyson 1562-269 used on the Sausage flatbread

Processed foods that are not listed in the Food Buying Guide (FBG) must be accompanied by a Product Formulation Statement (PFS) or Child Nutrition (CN) label to sufficiently document meal component crediting.

**Corrective Action Needed:** Submit acceptable crediting documentation for these items.

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 also be subject to fiscal action. Thank you.

Please note that repeat violations involving missing vegetable subgroups and food quantity shortages on future Administrative Reviews may result in fiscal action.

#### 3. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

## Nonprofit School Food Service Account

# Comments/Technical Assistance (TA)/Compliance Reminders

- The consultant address financial topics with the Business Manager including 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".
  - "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 "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.

#### **FSMC**

- Because of the Nonprogram Revenue Rule, expenses must be broken out by actual Labor, Food, Purchased Services, Equipment, or Other, and not all placed into Purchased Services as was previously done for SFAs with FSMC contracts.
- SFAs must annually be provided information on food costs and revenues from Food Service Management Companies (FSMC). The information must include food cost for reimbursable meals, food cost for non-program food, revenue from nonprogram food, and total revenue to determine SFA compliance with nonprogram food revenue requirements.

## 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 <a href="Indirect Costs guidance">Indirect Costs guidance</a> (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/financial).
- The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued guidance regarding the need for the School Food Authority (SFA) to seek preapproval from the State Agency (SA) for food service equipment purchases. The federal preapproval requirement as stated in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance and USDA regulations at 2 CFR 200.33 define "equipment" as tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of one year or

- longer and a per-unit acquisition cost that equals or exceeds the lesser capitalization threshold established for financial statement purposes, \$5,000, or a lower threshold set by state or local level regulations.
- The objective is for the SA's prior review and approval process to provide reasonable assurance that the equipment's acquisition cost is necessary for program purposes and the SFA's nonprofit school food service account can absorb the cost.
- The <u>Equipment Pre-Approval List</u> (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/preapproved-equipment-list.pdf) is available on the DPI website.
- 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. <a href="SP23-2017 Unpaid Meal Charges guidance Q">SP23-2017 Unpaid Meal Charges guidance Q</a> & A may be found our <a href="Financial Management webpage">Financial Management webpage</a> (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/financial).
   Further information on Unpaid Meal charges can be found in the below documents on the DPI website.
- <u>2017 Edition: Overcoming the Unpaid Meal Challenge: Proven Strategies from Our Nation's Schools SP 29-2017</u>, USDA (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/sp-29-2017.pdf)
- <u>Unpaid Meal Charges Guidance Q&A SP 23-2017, USDA, 03/23/17</u>
   (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/financial-questions-answers.pdf)
- <u>Unpaid Meal Charges: Local Meal Charge Policies SP 46-2016, USDA, 07/08/16</u> (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/sp-46-2016.pdf)
- Unpaid Meal Charges: Clarification on Collection of "Delinquent Meal Payments SP 47-2016, USDA, 07/08/16

(https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/sp-47-2016.pdf)

#### **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 snapshot 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
  - o 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: On the Annual Financial Report, large amount of expenses applied to purchased services.
All expenses must be allocated to the known expense category. Only certain costs can be applied to
purchased services.

<u>Corrective Action Needed</u>: Please resubmit your 17-18 Annual Financial Report with expenses from purchased services allocated to the correct expense categories. To do this, you will need to contact Jacque Jordee at <u>Jacqueline.jordee@dpi.wi.gov</u> or 608-267-9134 and fax or email her an updated report to complete a manual update.

☐ Finding #2: The district has an unpaid meal charge policy (district policy #8500) that is not consistent with the information sent to families.

<u>Corrective Action Needed</u>: Please develop a timeline for bringing the policy and practice into compliance.

## Paid Lunch Equity (PLE)

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

- Thank you for completing the Paid Lunch Equity tool each year (PLE survey for 2018-19) 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.
- 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</u>
   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).

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

 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 <u>minimum</u> pricing guidelines in Food Nutrition Services Instruction 782-5.
- A <u>Wisconsin Adult Meal Pricing Worksheet</u> has been developed to assist the SFA in pricing adult meals (http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/doc/wisconsin-adult-meal-pricing-guide.doc).
- 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**

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

## **Special Dietary Needs**

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

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

## **Overt Identification**

 The meal counting system must prevent overt identification of students receiving free and reduced price benefits. It was noted that meal prices for student meals (i.e., \$2.90, .40, 0.00) are visible on the computer screen; this constitutes overt identification.

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

## Findings and Corrective Action Needed: Civil Rights

<b>Finding #1:</b> Incorrect nondiscrimination statement is on menus, low balance letter and Food Services policy #8500. <u>Corrective Action Needed</u> : Correct the statement on all menus, low balance letter and Food Service policy #8500.
<b>Finding #2:</b> Sales screen of POS indicates individual student price, allowing overt identification. <b>Corrective Action Needed:</b> Correct this. Provide a screen shot of corrected sales screen for
breakfast and lunch, for each reviewed school, for each eligibility.

Finding #3: "And Justice for All" poster not posted at Spring Road Elementary School
Corrective Action Needed: Post the poster in cafeteria at Spring Road School, take a picture of it or
the wall and send to reviewer as corrective action. <b>Corrected. No further action necessary.</b>

☐ Finding #4: District does not have a USDA Child Nutrition Program Civil Rights complaint policy.

Corrective Action Needed: Please provide a policy or a timeline for bringing this into compliance.

# **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).

## Food Service Management Company (FSMC)

The following duties may not be delegated to the FSMC:

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

## **Local Wellness Policy**

#### 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 <u>Wisconsin Wellness: Putting Policy into Practice-School Wellness Policy Toolkit</u> (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/wellness-policy/toolkit). At a minimum the wellness policy must include:

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

### Resources:

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

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

☐ Finding #1: SFA LWP meets some but not all requirements as stipulated above (1000)

Corrective Action Needed: Please provide a timeline for updating your policy to become compliant with the final rule.

#### **Smart Snacks**

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

The Smart Snacks Final Rule, published in the Federal Register on July 29, 2016, finalized science-based nutrition guidelines for competitive foods sold on the school campus during the school day. Foods and beverages sold in schools must meet both the general standards and nutrient standards if they do not qualify for an exemption.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction 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 this may not occur in the meal service area during meal service times.

There is no required template that must be used to track fundraisers or products sold that are subject to Smart Snacks standards. However, tracking tool templates are available on the <a href="Smart Snacks page">Smart Snacks page</a> of our website and may be helpful in tracking this information (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/smart-snacks). Locations where exempt fundraisers occur, must be documented to ensure compliance with the regulation.

The <u>Smart Snacks in a Nutshell</u> document provides a great overview and summary of the general standards, nutrient standards and allowable beverages for your reference (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/smart-snacks-in-a-nutshell.pdf).

A soft pretzel with cheese sauce is offered as an a la carte option at Shattuck Middle. While this combination would exceed the sodium requirements under Smart Snacks, it can qualify as an exempt entrée on the day of and the day after it is offered as part of a reimbursable meal.

## **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> (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/professional-standards). Please see the DPI Professional Standards webpage for more information.

### New Food Service Director Minimum Hiring Standards

<u>SFA Enrollment under 500</u>: High school diploma (or GED) AND at least 1 year relevant experience in school nutrition.

<u>SFA Enrollment under 2,499</u>: High school diploma (or GED) AND at least 3 years relevant experience in school nutrition.

<u>SFA Enrollment 2.500-9.999</u>: Associate degree (or equivalent) with a related academic major AND at least 2 years relevant experience in school nutrition.

<u>SFA Enrollment > 10,000</u>: Bachelor's degree (or equivalent) in any academic major AND at least 5 years relevant experience in school nutrition.

### 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/professionalstandards).

## 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.

## **Water**

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

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

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

# **Food Safety and Storage**

# Comments/Technical Assistance (TA)/Compliance Reminders

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

### **Food Safety Inspections**

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

#### <u>Temperatures</u>

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

#### **Food Safety Plans**

- The Food Safety Plan was available for review. It was obvious in observing the food service
  manager/director at work that they are very knowledgeable about food safety practices and safe food
  handling. All temperature logs, calibration logs, and sanitizing solution logs were up-to-date.
- All schools must have a comprehensive, site-specific food safety plan on-site which includes all
  process 1, 2, and 3 items, all applicable standard operating procedures (SOP), all equipment, and a
  listing of food service staff at that site. The food safety plan must be reviewed annually. A prototype
  food safety plan template as well as template SOPs may be found on the <u>SNT Food Safety</u> webpage.
  (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/food-safety)
- The site-specific food safety plan should include SOPs for all programs and procedures utilized at the site.
- 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.

## 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.

### **Sharing and No Thank You Tables**

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

#### **Sharing Table**

A sharing table is a designated table for items students do not intend to consume. Students may pick up items from the sharing table during the meal period. <u>Items must be pre-packaged and unopened</u>. <u>A designated food service worker or trained individual must monitor the sharing table throughout meal</u>

service, inspecting items for wholesomeness. The table should not be located immediately after the point of service/sale.

#### No Thank You Table

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

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

#### **Considerations**

- 1. School food authorities (SFA) are making a conscientious effort to be good stewards of federal and state funding and USDA Foods received for the school meal and afterschool snack programs.
- 2. Offer versus Serve is effectively implemented. This includes training and supervising food service employees, informing students they may turn down up to two components at lunch and one food item at breakfast, and providing age appropriate signage.
- 3. The legal entity (e.g. school board, administrator) stated, in writing, sharing or no thank you tables are allowed at specific serving locations and accepts liability in the event of foodborne illness or injury.
- 4. Parents will be informed in writing.
- 5. The food safety plan for the specific serving locations where sharing or no thank you tables are allowed includes a standard operating procedure (SOP). Please work with the sanitarian and/or local regulatory authority before, during, and after the development of the SOP. Any changes required by the sanitarian will be made.
- 6. Items on the sharing or no thank you table are limited to school meal or snack components. Food items brought from home are excluded.
- 7. Fruits and vegetables with edible peels must be washed and wrapped or packaged for meal service.
- 8. Food on sharing or no thank you tables is not for adults (e.g. food service staff, aides, teachers, custodians).
- Further information on Sharing/No Thank You tables can be found in the <u>Fact Sheet for Sharing Tables</u> and <u>SP 41-2016</u>, <u>The Use of Share Tables in Child Nutrition Programs</u>
   (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/doc/sharing-tables.docx; https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/sp-41-2016.pdf).

## Wholesome Leftovers with Sharing and No Thank You Tables

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

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

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

## **Monitoring Log**

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

### Findings and Corrective Action: Food Safety

	<b>Finding</b> : No annual food safety plan review completed. <u>Corrective Action Needed</u> : Review entire food safety plan and update as needed. Document date and name of reviewer on the Food Safety Plan Review page. Submit completed Food Safety Plan Review page as an attachment to assigned DPI Nutrition Program Consultant via email.
	<b>Finding</b> : No sanitarian-approved SOP for sharing or no thank you tables. <u>Corrective Action Needed</u> : Obtain sanitarian approval for applicable SOP. Submit copy of approved SOP with proof of sanitarian approval as an attachment to assigned DPI Nutrition Program Consultant via email.
Note to reviewer: sanitarian approval is considered email documentation, a completed food safety plan review including the SOP, or a signature from the sanitarian.	
	<b>Finding</b> : Sharing table is not under direct supervision by trained adult. <u>Corrective Action Needed</u> : Designate an adult to monitor and supervise the sharing table during meal service. Notify assigned DPI Nutrition Program Consultant of the job position that will supervise the table.
	<b>Finding</b> : No thank you table is not within a reasonable monitoring distance of staff. <b>Corrective Action Needed</b> : Notify assigned DPI Nutrition Program Consultant of plan to relocate

#### **Buy American**

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

table to within a reasonable monitoring distance of staff.

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

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

- Labels should indicate if the product is grown, processed and packed in the continental U.S. and any U.S. Territories. If label indicates that product is distributed or packed in the U.S, but the country of origin is not listed, the SFA must get certification from distributor or supplier stating: "We certify that (green beans) were processed in the U.S. and contain over 51% of its agricultural food component, by weight or volume, from the U.S.," This can accepted within an email.
- 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.
- 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 (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/procurement/contract-procedures/contract-management) and Buy American monitoring procedures (https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/procurement/contract-procedures/buy-america).
- 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 <u>SNT Procurement webpage</u> (http://dpi.wi.gov/schoolnutrition/procurement/buy-american).

The following products were found without a clear country of origin indicated on the product or product packaging. This will be treated as technical assistance for the 2018-19 school year, but work with your distributor/supplier to move toward compliance.

- 10" tortillas
- Strawberry pop-tarts
- Frank's hot sauce
- Kraft mayo
- Minors sweet and sour
- Cumin
- Dill weed
- Baked beans
- Black beans
- Go-gurt
- Del monte peaches
- Del monte pears
- Frozen peas
- Uncrustables
- Goldfish
- Ketchup packets
- BBQ packs

# Findings and Corrective Action: Buy American

☐ **Finding #1:** The following non-domestic products were found:

- Pineapple Thailand
- Mandarin oranges China

- Bananas Honduras/Guatemala
- Red Peppers Mexico
- Apple juice USA, Argentina and China

**Corrective Action Needed:** Complete and submit a <u>non-compliant product form</u> for each of these items or submit documentation for a domestic product that will be purchased in their place (https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/doc/buy-american-attestation.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.

## Findings and Corrective Action: Reporting and Recordkeeping

☐ Finding: Verification folder with applications for the verification process is misplaced. VCR was completed. Records are not kept on file for the minimum timeframe.

Corrective Action Needed: Provide a Statement of how records will be maintained as required.

## 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**

Breakfast is offered in seven of the district schools and the participation in most of those schools is about 50% compared to lunch. At Shattuck Middle School, the expansion of the mid-morning breakfast option could be one way to boost the breakfast participation. More information about potential breakfast service models as well as financial models can be found in the Serving up a Successful School Breakfast Program guide (http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/school-breakfast-program).

A Breakfast in the Classroom Toolkit 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 <u>Resources for the School Breakfast Program</u> 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. The Summer Food Service Program was offered by the district in summer of 2018. Whether a district participates in or offers this program, USDA requires all SFAs to inform families of where their students can receive a free meal in the summer months. SFAs can inform families of summer meals via the following methods:

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

#### Resources:

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

"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!