Serving up Fresh School Nutrition News and Information

The Lunch* Line

* snacks, breakfast, dinner, milk and more

Minnesota Department of Education

Food and Nutrition Service

MDE Update

January 2014

Happy new year to all of you. I'm excited to take this opportunity to roll out the new MDE School Nutrition Program's newsletter "The Lunch Line." This monthly newsletter will feature information on breakfast, lunch, snacks and more. We will post links to recent USDA memos, have a "feature" highlight each issue, include training opportunities, marketing resources and other topics that will help each of us succeed in our jobs of feeding the students of Minnesota. Hats off to a wonderful 2014!

Deb Lukkonen, Supervisor
School Nutrition Programs

Hot Topics

Community Eligibility Provision. "Start the Conversation."
Community Eligibility is a new option within the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 to allow high-poverty schools to feed more students, reduce administrative paperwork and costs, and focus on meal quality. Schools that qualify can offer ***all*** students breakfast and lunch meals **at no charge**. To view a webinar on this great new program, contact Janelle Gomez. Start the conversation to gauge support and see if your district or school can qualify for this great program.

Meal Pattern Requirements Finalized
The final rule makes permanent the flexibility given to school food authorities that eliminates the cap on (cont.)

USDA Memos/Communication

Certification of Compliance of Meal Requirements. View the final rule**.** This provides the final regulations for the National School Lunch Program in the areas of: Reporting and Recordkeeping, Certification Process, Maximums for Grains and Meats and Frozen Fruit with Added Sugars, Training and Nondiscretionary Items.

School Food Service Account Revenue from the Sale of Non-Program Foods. View the USDA Memorandum**.** Non-program food is defined as food purchased using funds from the non-profit school food service account (other than reimbursable meals) that is sold at any time or location on the school campus.

- Note that "non-program foods" is a broad category that includes all foods purchased from the school food service account, other than food for reimbursable meals, regardless of where or when those foods will be sold on the school campus.
- The school food service may purchase non-program foods for other entities officially sanctioned by the school through existing food service contracts, as long as the purchase cost is paid in full by the other entity, including any labor costs associated with purchasing these goods.
- All revenue from the school food service's sale of non-program foods sold in schools at any time or location on the school campus must accrue only to the school food service account.
- In catering contracts, the school food service must ensure that all costs, including labor and any other costs incurred, are covered by the outside entity.
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Hot Topics (cont.)

Meal Pattern Requirements Finalized (continued)

and meat/meat alternates if the school food authority is compliant with the daily and weekly ranges for grain and meat/meat alternates, and if calorie requirements are still met. Please note that the calorie requirements are still in place, and the rule does not allow for any deviation from the previously identified grade grouping calorie ranges. (See memo at right.)

Marketing, Menus and More!

Expanding Meal Opportunities for Hungry Students

- **Summer Food Service**
- **Afterschool Meals**

The percentage of Minnesota children living in poverty increased from 8.4% to 13.7% over the past 10 years. Hunger and food insecurity affect children and youth in nearly every community and impact student ability to do well in school. In addition to the school meals program, please consider participation in other USDA programs such as **Summer Food Service** and **At Risk Afterschool Meals** to provide meals when school in not in session. Streamlined application processes make it easier than ever to take advantage of new feeding options Call: 651-582-8526; 800-366-8922 or Email: mde.fns@state.mn.us

USDA Memos/Communication (continued)

School Food Authorities Obtaining New Food Service Management Contracts. View the Requirements for New Contracts.

School food authorities that plan on having a new food service management contract in place for school year 2014-15 should **start the procurement process** now! The linked document also includes a list of the school food authorities that are currently in the final renewal year of a management contract and must rebid for school year 2014-15.

Training Opportunities

Purchasing Local Foods – USDA bi-monthly webinar

Beginning January through June 2014, the USDA Farm to School Program will host two webinars each month to showcase the variety of ways school districts can purchase local foods. The webinars will be held at 1:00 p.m.**.** Topics will include everything from procurement, to using geographic preference, finding local producers, and DoD Fresh.

Finding Local Producers – February 13
Using the Informal Procurement Method – February 27
Using Specifications to Target Local Products – March 13
Working with Distributors – March 27
Using a Forward Contract – April 10
Introduction to Geographic Preference – April 24
Using Geographic Preference – May 8
Using USDA Foods as Resource to Purchase Local – May 22
Using DoD Fresh to Purchase Local – June 12

Register here for one or several of the sessions.

2014 Schoolyard Garden Conference

Join Minnesota Commissioner of Education, Brenda Cassellius on Friday, February 28, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum to learn about a hands-on opportunity for students to meet state learning standards, engage with communities, partner with businesses, learn about healthy eating and (re-)connect with the land. Whether you already have a garden, are thinking of building one, or want to bring one back to life, join us and learn how to create a school-yard garden that works at every level in your community. Get more information, Register here.

Charter/Private School Webinar Training

The Minnesota Department of Education Food and Nutrition Service is offering an ***Essentials for School Nutrition*** training series. This training is designed specifically for staff from charter, private or public schools new to the National School Lunch Program. The series will be offered on Tuesday afternoons from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in webinar format and is offered free of charge.

Meal Counting and Claiming, January 28, 2014, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Register here.

USDA Foods for Charter/Private Schools with Caterers, February 4, 2014, 2:00 PM-4:00 PM. Register here.