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| EED_logo_blk  | National School Lunch Program Bulletin<http://education.alaska.gov/tls/cnp/NSLP9.html>  | *Child Nutrition Programs**Teaching and Learning Support**801 West 10th Street, Suite 200**PO 110500**Juneau, Alaska   99811-0500**(907) 465-8709**Fax:  907 465-8910**elizabeth.seitz@alaska.gov* |
| To: Local Educational Agencies | Date:  November 16, 2017 |
| From: Elizabeth Seitz, NSLP Program Coordinator  | Bulletin: 2018-3 |

***LEAs are required, by regulation, to keep Bulletins, Instructions, and USDA Policy Memorandums for reference and to apply immediately the appropriate instruction to agency programs. Call Child Nutrition Programs if you need further clarification.***

###### USDA Policy, Information & Implementation Memos

* [SP01-2018](https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cn/SP01-2018os.pdf)- Updated Infant and Preschool Meal Patterns in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program; Questions and Answers
* [SP42-2017](https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cn/SP42-2017os.pdf)- Beginning Verification before October 1: Guidance to Local Education Agencies

###### Additional Topics

* Food Safety Train-the-Trainer Event with ICN
* Food Day
* Training Materials and Resources
* New Manager Monday Calls
* Smart Snack Waiver

###### Resources

* Listserv
* Help Desk information for Primero Edge
* Nutrition Facts Sheets for Fruits, Vegetables, and Seafood
* ***New*** Unpaid Meal Charge Policy web page
* ***New*** Whole Grain-Rich and 1% Flavored Milk Exemption from

###### Grant Opportunities

* Washington Dairy Council
* School Grants for Healthy Kids
* $10,000 Grant for Healthy Snacking
* Farm to School Grant

###### USDA Policy, Information & Implementation Memos

* [SP01-2018](https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cn/SP01-2018os.pdf)- **Updated Infant and Preschool Meal Patterns in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program; Questions and Answers** While many of the changes to the infant and preschool meal patterns make them more consistent with the requirements for older grade groups (K through 12th grade), some of the meal pattern requirements for infants and preschoolers are different. The infant and preschool meal patterns are specifically designed for this younger age group and its nutritional needs. Taste preferences are formed early in a child’s life and meals served to infants and preschoolers are a critical part of establishing healthy habits that will last a lifetime.

*Sponsors: This USDA Policy memo outlines some of the changes made to the Pre-School age/grade group’s meal patterns and goes through those changes to help clarify some questions that have been asked by school districts.*

* [SP42-2017](https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cn/SP42-2017os.pdf)- **Beginning Verification before October 1: Guidance to Local Education Agencies** This USDA policy memo was released in the October bulletin.

*Sponsors: This USDA Policy memo and the Eligibility Manual for School Meals (pg. 98) says that local education agencies (LEAs) may begin the verification of household application once the application approval process has begun for the current school year and approved application are on file and not wait till Oct. 1st. However, we would like to point out that by not waiting until Oct. 1st to pull your 3% sample pool LEAs can run the risk of over verifying or under verifying which can result in having to do verification training the following school year.*

###### Additional Topics

* **Food Safety Train-the-Trainer Event** Join the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) for the Food Safety Train-the-Trainer Event on **December 5-6, 2017**, Holiday Inn San Diego Bayside in San Diego, California.

This event is for district directors and/or district trainers to receive materials and information to provide training in their home districts.

Participants who complete this 12-hour Train-the-Trainer session will earn 12 continuing education units approved by the Commission on Dietetic Registration and the School Nutrition Association. Codes for USDA Professional Standards are listed on the certificate of completion. ***Materials will be provided for each session. Participant travel expenses will be reimbursed according to ICN’s Participant Travel Policies and Procedures.***

To register for this great training opportunity you will find the ICN Flyer under the September Bulletin at: <https://education.alaska.gov/tls/cnp/NSLP9.html>



* To celebrate National Food Day we asked programs to volunteer to participate in a Local Lunch event during the month of October by serving food items that were grown or harvested in Alaska.  If you had a Local Lunch day event, you could receive a special prize by just emailing us what you served that day.

Everyone who submits Local Lunch Day information will be put in the drawing for prizes ranging from plush Garden Heroes’ figures to a Kids Nutrition Prize Box which includes bookmarks, Garden Bingo game, plush toys and other goodies.  Please email Sue Lampert at sue.lampert@alaska.gov  by **November 15th.**

For more information please contact Sue Lampert at 907-465-8710

* **Training Materials and Resources** We have updated our School Nutrition Training webpage to include all of the trainings we covered on August 1st, and the Web-X’s on Aug. 8th and 10th. The link to this web page is: <https://education.alaska.gov/tls/cnp/NSLP1.html>

We also have a resources web page which you can find many program related information and more…and that link is: <https://education.alaska.gov/tls/cnp/NSLP4.html>

Our State Child Nutrition Programs webpage is also a great resource for all kinds of useful information. That link is: <https://education.alaska.gov/tls/cnp/>

* **New Manager Monday Calls** Our next New Managers Monday teleconference audio is on **November 13th** and then on **November 27th**, these audios are not trainings but more of a platform for new and current staff to call in and ask questions, hear about resources, discuss processes or issues with a process, and receive reminders of program reports or deadlines.

Every other **Monday at 1:30** pm we will cover different program topics that are taking place at the time or coming up soon. The topic on **November 13th** will be: **Verification Process,** and then on **November 27th Unpaid Meal Polices.**

To find the current trainings go to our eLearning at: <https://education.alaska.gov/ELearning/>

**eLearning:** Provides trainingswhich can count towards your Professional Standards training hours.

To join the call dial: **1-800-315-6338**

Use the Access Code: **87091**

We look forward to you joining us **Monday November 13th , 2017** and again on **November 27th, 2017**

* **Smart Snack Waiver** This notice serves as a reminder that the waiver request process is an annual requirement; a new request form and all supporting documentation—including an Implementation Assessment of your Wellness Policy—must be submitted for approval each year.

To find out more information on Smart Snacks including the waiver form and Competitive Foods you can check out our web page at: <https://education.alaska.gov/tls/cnp/competfoods.html>

###### Resources

* **Listserv**- Did You Know? Alaska Child Nutrition Programs has a listserv. The purpose of the listserv is to provide information and updates on the USDA Child Nutrition Programs, including the National School Lunch Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Summer Food Service Program.

To receive all of the hottest news and updates from Alaska Child Nutrition Programs, Subscribe to ak\_child\_nutrition\_programs by filling out the form found here: <http://list.state.ak.us/mailman/listinfo/ak_child_nutrition_programs>.

You will receive a confirmation link via email which you should click to complete your subscription.

* **Help Desk information for Primero Edge** Terry Brown with Primero Edge is a great person to contact when you are having issues with the system during the weekdays. Her contact information is Terri Brown Terri.Brown@primeroedge.com or you can call the customer care line at **866-442-6030** or email:customercare@primeroedge.com.
* **Nutrition Facts Sheets for Fruits, Vegetables, and Seafood** here are some helpful nutrition facts for commonly purchased foods. <https://www.fda.gov/Food/ucm063367.htm>You can print them out and hang them up or use them as resources for menu planning.

Here is another web site with Nutrition Facts.<http://www.wellnessproposals.com/nutrition/handouts/5-a-day/nutrition-facts.pdf>

* ***New*** **Unpaid Meal Charge Policy** You can find USDA Policies, guidance, and many helpful resources to help you create or enhance your Unpaid Meal Charge Policy on our new Unpaid Meal Charge Policy web page at: <https://education.alaska.gov/tls/cnp/mealchargepolicy.html>.
* ***New* Whole Grain-Rich and 1% Flavored Milk Exemption form** The implementation of the whole grain-rich requirement was phased in over a period of three SYs. Half of the grains offered in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) were required to be at least whole grain-rich effective July 1, 2012 (SY 2012-2013). Half of the grains offered in the SBP were required to be at least whole grain-rich effective July 1, 2013 (SY 2013-2014). All grains offered in the NSLP and SBP were required to be at least whole grain-rich effective July 1, 2014 (SY 2014-2015).

The progression to offering all whole grain-rich grains in school meals represents a significant transition for industry, program operators, and students. The authority provided to Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) in Public Law 113-235 allows us to offer the opportunity to provide School Food Authorities (SFAs) that demonstrate hardship in procuring specific whole grain-rich products the ability to seek exemptions for one or more products. CNP may approve an SFA’ s exemption request for specific products if the SFA can demonstrate hardship(s) in procuring, preparing, or serving compliant whole grain-rich products that are accepted by students. The temporary exemptions are allowed for any type of grain product(s), (e.g., pasta, bread, brown rice, etc.) and for one or more different products.

Finally, under Section 747(c) of the Appropriations Act, through SY 2017-2018, State agencies have the discretion to grant SFAs exemptions allowing service of low-fat (1-percent milk fat), flavored milk through the NSLP and the SBP and as a competitive food available for sale on campus during the school day. In order to qualify for the exemption, schools must demonstrate hardship by documenting a reduction in student milk consumption or an increase in school milk waste.

To request an exemption for any Whole Grain-Rich product or to be allowed to offer 1% Flavored milk in your lunch or breakfast programs you must submit an exemption form for approval. You may local this form at: <https://education.alaska.gov/tls/cnp/NSLP9.html> under the July Bulletin.

###### Grant Opportunities

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* **Washington Dairy Council offers two grants:**
	+ [Fuel Up to Play 60](https://eatsmart-org.myshopify.com/admin/pages/www.fueluptoplay60.com) (FUTP60) Grant: Increase the health and wellness of your students with up to $4,000 to implement sustainable physical fitness and nutrition strategies for your entire school. We can fund multiple schools within a district. Please [*contact us*](http://eatsmart-org.myshopify.com/pages/contact-us) for more information. [Fuel Up to Play 60 details](http://www.fueluptoplay60.com/)**.**
	+ **Breakfast Grant**: Increase your school breakfast participation! Up to $7,000 is available to support the enhancement and marketing of your school or school district's breakfast program. Support the learning in your district by implementing "recess before lunch". Funds are available to help build your existing program or start a new one. *Please*[*contact us*](http://eatsmart-org.myshopify.com/pages/contact-us)*for more information.*
* **School Grants for Healthy Kids** $2500 grants for NSLP schools to purchase fresh (preferably local) fruits and vegetables. See website for more information and application: <http://www.chefannfoundation.org/programs-and-grants/project-produce/>.
	+ **$10,000 Grant for Healthy Snacking** Attention SNA Members:

We’ve partnered with our friends over at the U.S. Apple Association and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture on a new initiative called [Apples4Ed](http://sable.madmimi.com/c/29545?id=9250343.73226.1.287ec803e793348d0a8abf15fa81be31). Starting this week, schools across the country will compete for a $10,000 grant to bring a healthy snacking program to their campus—and we encourage you to jump in and nominate your school.

So, what types of projects will be funded? All kinds. Give us your best idea. Do you want to harvest a school garden on campus? Or do you have big plans for a snack pantry to keep students fueled and energized through the day? What about a new cooking and fitness competition to promote healthy lifestyles? Get creative!

We’re biased, but we know the best submissions will come from our members. You know the role nutrition plays...and not only at the breakfast, lunch, and dinner table. You live it and see it every day. Healthy snacks can drive alertness, focus, and energy. Equipping kids with what they need to be successful in the classroom—begins with you and a school’s nutrition program.

Go to [www.apples4ed.com](http://sable.madmimi.com/c/29545?id=9250343.73228.1.182f3f1fe4bdbc6f4a796d06ef05f2a2) to learn more and submit your idea through the [online form](http://sable.madmimi.com/c/29545?id=9250343.73229.1.592af0a2fabc2e8c1ffbf0bd3d6d6aa5) before **November 30, 2017.**

**Good luck and happy snacking!**

* + **Farm to School Grant** The USDA Farm to School Grant Request for Applications (RFA) is live! Please spread the word far and wide that eligible entities may now apply for the $5 million available in grant program funds.

**What:** USDA Farm to School Grants of $20,000 - $50,000 for planning and training and $50,000 - $100,000 for implementation of farm to school programs

**Who:**   Schools, non-profit organizations, state agencies, Indian Tribal Organizations, farmers and other eligible groups may apply (Schools not eligible for training grants)

**Why:**   To help connect students to the sources of their food through education, taste tests, school gardens, field trips, and local food sourcing for school meals

**When:**             Applications are due **December 8, 2017**

**There were a couple changes from the FY17 RFA in the FY18 RFA. Please note the following updates to the FY 18 RFA:**

* + Streamlines grant tracks. The support service track and sub categories for the training track have been removed. All eligible entities may now apply for the planning and implementation track. The training track is open only to state agencies, Indian Tribal Organizations, farmers, non-profit organizations, and agricultural producers.
	+ Revises funding priority and eligibility for Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) operators. Projects that include CACFP and SFSP are still accepted but are no longer prioritized for funding. For planning and implementation grants, targeted CACFP and SFSP intervention sites must be school-based only.
	+ Deems organizations that have received implementation, support service, or training grants through the Farm to School Grant Program in the last two funding cycles (FY 2016 or FY 2017) ineligible for FY 2018 funding. Planning grantees may reapply for implementation or training grants.
	+ Revised priority areas to include school districts, Indian Tribal Organizations and entities serving Native Communities, state agencies, projects that reach more than one school, and projects that serve a high proportion of children (at least 40 percent or more) who are eligible for free or reduced price meals.

**Visit the USDA Farm to School Grant website for the** [**RFA**](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=297858)**,** [**FAQ’s**](https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/f2s/FY18grantfaqs.pdf) **and info on upcoming webinars!** [**https://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-school-grant-program**](https://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-school-grant-program)

Please don’t hesitate to contact JuliAnna Arnett at julianna.arnett@fns.usda.gov or 415-293-3720 with any questions.

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| **Calendar of Upcoming Events & Deadlines** |
| **Oct. 1st Verification of Household Applications** *began 3% …………………………………………application sample should be pulled***Nov. 1st Submit October Claim for Free and Reduced Price Report** **Nov. 15th Verification of Household Applications** should be completed**Nov. 30th Free & Reduced Price Meals Eligibility Report** Due |

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To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](http://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/Complain_combined_6_8_12.pdf), (AD-3027) found online at: <http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html>, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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