****National School Lunch Program

Bulletin

[NSLP Bulletins & Memos](http://education.alaska.gov/tls/cnp/NSLP9.html)

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Local Educational Agencies

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Bulletin: 2018-12

***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

* [SP18-2018](https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cn/SP18_CACFP13_2018os.pdf)- Child Nutrition Programs’ Flexibilities for School Year 2018-2019
* [SP09-2006](https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cn/SP09-2006os.pdf)- School Meal Initiative (SMI) Frequently Asked Questions Resource

###### Additional Topics

* School Meal Initiative(SMI) Frequently Asked Questions Resource
* **NSLP Annual Training**
* Training Materials and Resources
* Smart Snack Waiver

###### Resources

* ***New*** National School Lunch Program Order Form
* ***Updated*** Food Buying Guide
* Listserv
* Help Desk information for Primero Edge
* Nutrition Facts Sheets for Fruits, Vegetables, and Seafood

###### Grant Opportunities

* ***NEW*** 2018 NSLP USDA Equipment Grant
* School Grants for Healthy Kids

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

* [SP18-2018](https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cn/SP18_CACFP13_2018os.pdf)- **Child Nutrition Programs’ Flexibilities for School Year 2018-2019** This memorandum was released in the July Bulletin.

*Sponsors: This memo addressed the three areas of flexibility allowed by USDA effective July 1st, 2018. Milk- May be offered in 1% flavored without a waiver, Whole grains- will continue to have exemptions for items that an SFA can demonstrate hardship or student acceptability, and last Sodium-SFAs will still follow the Target 1 regulatory limits for NSLP and SBP.*

* [SP09-2006](https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cn/SP09-2006os.pdf)- **School Meal Initiative (SMI) Frequently Asked Questions Resource** We are bringing back a very old USDA policy memorandum that went over the old menu analysis called School Meal Initiative (SMI). Even though USDA did away with the SMI, USDA did not do away with the requirements needed to conduct a menu analysis. In the past two years, the biggest findings we are seeing during Administrative Reviews are missing or incomplete production records. This is very concerning as this information is still a requirement to serving and claiming reimbursable meals. Without complete production records we can’t determine if reimbursable meals are being served and then federal funds must be returned. Please read through this Q & A and the SMI resource handbook for the Food Production Records requirements which can be found on page 20.

We would like everyone to be fully aware of these requirements as we proceed into our next Administrative Reviews for 2018-2019. *If we continue to find missing or incomplete production records we will have no choice but to disallow all meals for each day with missing or incomplete production records during the review period.*

###### Additional Topics

* **NSLP Annual Training** It’s that time of year again when one program year comes to a close and preparation for the next begins.

We will be conducting our Annual NSLP Administrative Training this year both in person and via Web-X.  The upside to that is it saves your district money and these training sessions can go towards Professional Standard training hours.

In person training will be **August 7-9, 2018** at the Hilton Garden Inn Mid-town Anchorage

And **August 14-15, 2018** by Web-X. The Web-X sessions will not cover all of the subjects covered during the in person training but will cover:

* + Administrative Review Process
	+ Application and Verification
	+ Production Records
	+ State Records Management (SRM)
	+ USDA Foods
	+ At-Risk Meals
	+ And More TBA

Administrative Trainings are not required, but are strongly recommended for districts up for an Administrative Review during PY2018.

For In-person Annual Training Registrations go to: [NSLP Bulletins and Memos](https://education.alaska.gov/cnp/nslp9) and look under the April Bulletin.

Please submit a registration form for all district staff planning on attending these trainings to Debbie Soto at Debbie.soto@alaska.gov or Elizabeth Seitz at Elizabeth.seitz@alaska.gov or fax to 907.465.8910.

This will assist us with tracking Professional Standard Hours for training certificates.

* **Training Materials and Resources** We have a resources web page where you can find many program related information. Just go to [Child Nutrition Resources](https://education.alaska.gov/cnp/resources).

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

* **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: [Competitive Foods (Smart Snacks)](https://education.alaska.gov/tls/cnp/competfoods.html)

###### Resources

* ***New* National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Order Form** The Alaska Child Nutrition Programs has developed many great program resources that are free for any local education agency (LEA) on the NSLP programs. We have created an order form to make it easier for you to obtain the materials we offer. To access the order form you can find it at: [NSLP Bulletins and Memos](https://education.alaska.gov/cnp/nslp9) under the April Bulletin.
* ***Updated* Food Buying Guide** USDA has finally released the updated Food Buying Guide to help nutrition staff with understanding when purchasing foods about how much is in a #10 can of peaches or the number of portions you get from 20 pound of ground beef. You can download the [Food Buying Guide](https://foodbuyingguide.fns.usda.gov/Appendix/DownLoadFBG).
* **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: [Alaska Child Nutrition Programs ListServ](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** Terri 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 Sheet for Fruits, Vegetables, and Seafood** Here are some helpful [Nutrition Information Sheets](https://www.fda.gov/Food/ucm063367.htm) for commonly purchased foods. You can print them out and hang them up or use them as resources for menu planning.

###### Grant Opportunities

* **2018 NSLP USDA Equipment Grant- Completed Applications are due to Alaska Child Nutrition Programs by September 1st, 2018 by 4:30 p.m.** These funds will be available through a competitive grant process. The maximum award per grantee will be $10,000. Priority will be given to high need schools where 50% or more of the student population are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals. Priority will also be given to schools that did not previously receive funds from either the 2009 ARRA, 2010 USDA, 2014, 2015, 2016, or 2017 Equipment Grant. Please make sure applications are submitted for sites that are 50% or above free and reduced-price eligible.

These funds will make a significant investment in meeting the unmet need allowing the purchase of capital *(>$5,000 -\*Note that for FY 2018 EAG only, Congress lowered the capitalization threshold to $1,000)* equipment helpful to serve healthier meals, meet the new nutritional standards with emphasis on more fresh fruits and vegetables in school meals, improve food safety and expand accessibility to food services.

This grant ends **June 30, 2019**. An application for this 2018 NSLP Equipment Grant will be emailed out to the food service contacts we have on file in the CNPweb. For more information on this grant please contact Elizabeth Seitz at 907.465.8709 or Elizabeth.seitz@alaska.gov .

* **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: [Chef Ann Foundation Project Produce](http://www.chefannfoundation.org/programs-and-grants/project-produce/).

###### Upcoming Events

**Date**

July 1st

August 7-9th

August 14-15th

September 15th

**Event**

Annual NSLP Renewal Starts

NSLP Annual Training in Anchorage

NSLP Web-X trainings

NSLP Annual Renewal deadline

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(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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