

# National School Lunch Program

Bulletin

[EED NSLP Bulletin Web Page](http://education.alaska.gov/tls/cnp/NSLP9.html)

***Child Nutrition Programs***

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To: Local Educational Agencies Date:  December 4, 2020

From: Elizabeth Seitz, NSLP Program Coordinator Bulletin: 2021-04

***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

* Proposed Rule: Restoration of Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Flexibilities
* Food Nutrition Services (FNS) Response to [COVID-19](https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19) web page (including all Extension memos)

## Additional Topics

* Pandemic SFSP training
* 2021 Produce Safety University
* AKSNA Annual Conference
* CNP-Web and Primero Edge User Authorizations

## Resources

* Ask AK CNP Anything
* Transitional Menu Planning Tool
* Food Safety Protection Manager Training On-line
* ***NEW*** ELearning course- Preparing for an Administrative Review for School Nutrition Programs
* ***Updated*** Food Buying Guide
* Listserv

## Grant Opportunities

* ***None at this time***

## USDA Policy, Information & Implementation Memos

* **Proposed Rule: Restoration of Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Flexibilities**

On November 25, FNS published in the Federal Register a Proposed Rule, *Restoration of Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Flexibilities*, which seeks to reinstate vacated milk, whole grains, and sodium flexibilities and make them available once again to schools and institutions participating in the Child Nutrition Program. The Proposed Rule is available at: [https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/11/25/2020-25761/restoration-of-milk-whole-grains-and-sodium-flexibilities](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/11/25/2020-25761/restoration-of-milk-whole-grains-and-sodium-flexibilities__;!!J2_8gdp6gZQ!_mPaC85T1sw3bFn4dL_KkkZkau-fhUjAKCaOq0TMqaBLXTP7tygvBxN_SgRBBxEme8w$). The proposed flexibilities include:

* (1) Allowing National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) operators to permanently offer flavored, low-fat milk as part of a reimbursable meal and for sale as a competitive beverage and allowing flavored, low-fat milk in the Special Milk Program for Children and in the Child and Adult Care Food Program for participants ages 6 and older;
* (2) Allowing for half of the weekly grains in the NSLP and SBP menus to be whole grain-rich; and
* (3) Providing schools participating in the NSLP and SBP more time for gradual sodium reduction by retaining Sodium Target 1 through the end of school year (SY) 2023-2024, continuing to Target 2 in SY 2024-2025, and eliminating the Final Target.
* This Proposed Rule proposes to reinstate regulations that were rescinded in the Final Rule, *Child Nutrition Programs: Rescission of Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Flexibilities: Notice of Vacatur,* which was published in the Federal Register on November 24 in response to an April 2020 court ruling vacating the previously published provisions. The Final Rule is available at: [https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/11/24/2020-25760/child-nutrition-programs-rescission-of-milk-whole-grains-and-sodium-flexibilities-notice-of-vacatur](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/11/24/2020-25760/child-nutrition-programs-rescission-of-milk-whole-grains-and-sodium-flexibilities-notice-of-vacatur__;!!J2_8gdp6gZQ!_mPaC85T1sw3bFn4dL_KkkZkau-fhUjAKCaOq0TMqaBLXTP7tygvBxN_SgRBkRfvZ3g$).
* The Proposed Rule comment period opens today, November 25, 2020, and will close on December 28, 2020. Complete information on how to submit comments is included in the Proposed Rule, however, commenters are encouraged to submit comments through [regulations.gov](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/11/25/2020-25761/restoration-of-milk-whole-grains-and-sodium-flexibilities__;!!J2_8gdp6gZQ!_mPaC85T1sw3bFn4dL_KkkZkau-fhUjAKCaOq0TMqaBLXTP7tygvBxN_SgRBBxEme8w$) by the close of the comment period on Monday, December 28, 2020.
* **Food Nutrition Services (FNS) Response to** [**COVID-19**](https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19) **web page**

*Sponsors: This web page lists all the National Waivers, Waiver Extensions, and Q&As distributed by USDA on the COVID-19 pandemic.*

## Additional Topics

* **Pandemic SFSP training** We are planning training for the following dates and times:
  + **Dec. 10th at 10:00am to 11:00am**
  + **Dec. 15th at 10:00am to 11:00am**

The training will go over the requirements for this school years food service programs transition back to the SFSP program. This training will go over the USDA waivers, the meal patterns, what the differences are between NSLP/SSO and SFSP, and what the USDA waivers have allowed SFAs to do under the SFSP/SSO program model, as well as an overview of procurement requirements. To register for either of these training dates go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PR6LXYD> . ***This training is required for all SFAs that did not attend the October 7th training.***

* **2021 Produce Safety University** Each year USDA provides us the opportunity to send a few school district staff to Produce Safety University. This is a great training that covers all aspects of produce food safety from farm to fork. With travel restrictions this year USDA will be offering this training virtually. There are 5 training opportunities, each 3 days long, 4 hours per day. Child Nutrition Programs may only nominate 3 district staff to attend annually; if you are interested please contact Jo Dawson at [jo.dawson@alaska.gov](mailto:jo.dawson@alaska.gov) by **December 15, 2020.**

Please note that the 2020 nominees who were unable to attend due to cancellations should be contacted directly by USDA to see if they would like to attend the 2021 sessions.

* **AKSNA Annual Conference** Alaska School Nutrition Association will be holding their annual conference by Zoom this year on the afternoons of **January 26-28, 2021**.  The agenda will be posted soon on their website at [https://aksna.org/events/](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/aksna.org/events/__;!!J2_8gdp6gZQ!8r9KMNl3Au-8ZODPlzCdsiZDrFN0FfXx08SD27jeTyPOhBl9RCN7BWBqZagjf9JGalk$).  Registration is required but AKSNA has waived the registration fee this year; please click find the registration forms at:  [https://fs20.formsite.com/RexVVo/vojqfyzi7z/index.html](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/fs20.formsite.com/RexVVo/vojqfyzi7z/index.html__;!!J2_8gdp6gZQ!8r9KMNl3Au-8ZODPlzCdsiZDrFN0FfXx08SD27jeTyPOhBl9RCN7BWBqZagjF-olxpw$) to register.  Zoom links will be sent to registrants closer to the conference date.
* **CNP-Web and Primero Edge User Authorizations** Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) assigns a user name and password to nutrition and education staff when a User Authorization form is completed and submitted to CNP when access is needed for the claiming system (CNP-Web and Primero Edge), as part of the staff’s job duties. These forms state:

*“I will not share my user name and password in order to maintain the integrity of the data. If another user uses the CNP Web or Primero Edge under my user name and password and provides false information, I understand that I will be responsible for the information supplied to CNP.*

*I will notify the CNP immediately if my user name and password have been compromised. CNP will give me a new user name and password.*

*If I no longer need access to the CNP Web, I understand that it is my responsibility to submit a form to end access.”*

CNP staff have been noticing quite a number of user names and education staff that are sharing their user names and passwords which is **NOT ALLOWED**. When this occurs CNP staff will immediately turn off that user name’s access and that staff will be required to obtain a new user name and password. If this behavior continues we may be forced to deny access to the CNP-Web and Primero Edge for those staff members. Please be sure you are not sharing your user names with other staff. If a new member needs access they must submit a User Authorization form located on our web page:

[CNP-Web Access](https://education.alaska.gov/cnp/nslp3)

[Primero Edge Access](https://education.alaska.gov/cnp/primero)

If you have any questions regarding this requirement you may contact me at [Elizabeth Seitz](mailto:Elizabeth.seitz@alaska.gov) (Elizabeth.Seitz@alaska.gov) or 907.465.8709 or [Debbie Soto](mailto:Debbie.soto@alaska.gov) (Debbie.soto@alaska.gov) or 907.465-8712.

## Resources

* **Ask AK CNP Anything** We created a helpful pdf for your use that might help answer many of the questions folks have about which program may work best for them NSLP or SSO/SFSP. You can find this under the October Bulletin at: <https://education.alaska.gov/cnp/nslp9>
* **Transitional Menu Planning Tool** Start planning now to be prepared for the fall. Service style may change but your menus and products can stay the same.

By planning a quality transitional menu now, you will be prepared for any service style. USDA has this great New tool for your use. You can view or download this tool from the following link: <https://education.alaska.gov/cnp/nslp9> under the August bulletin.

* **Food Safety Protection Manager Training On-line** If you are in need of Food Safety training to meet your Professional Standard training requirements you can check out this great ICN on-line training.

<https://alwaysfoodsafe.com/food-protection-manager?state=Alaska&county=All%20counties%20(Todos%20los%20condados)#productBoxes>

* ***New*** **ELearning course- Preparing for an Administrative Review for School Nutrition Programs** This training overviews the administrative review process for School Nutrition Programs (SNP). The Administrative Review process occurs on a 5-year review cycle and incorporates both off-site and on-site activities. The Administrative Review process ensures program integrity and compliance with federal law and regulations in the operation of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs.

**Part 1** discusses the general overview of the review process and more in-depth information about the Access and Reimbursement section.

**Part 2** reviews the Nutrition Quality/Meal Pattern and Resource Management review sections.

**Part 3** addresses General Program Compliance and Other Federal Program Reviews sections to assist sponsors in being successful.

To register for this training and many more go to: Alaska Department of Education & Early Development [eLearning](https://eedelearning.asentialms.com/).

* ***Updated* Food Buying Guide** USDA has finally released the updated Food Buying Guide to help nutrition staff with understanding when purchasing foods, such as how much is in a #10 can of peaches or the number of portions you get from 20 pounds 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.

## Grant Opportunities

* ***None at this time.***

**Calendar of Upcoming Events**

**DATE: EVENT:**

**Nov. 15th Verification of Household applications ends**

**Dec. 31st Counting and Claiming self-monitoring review should be done.**

**Jan. 29th Afterschool Snack or At-Risk Meal Programs self-monitoring first review should be done**