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To: MDE-SchoolNutrition
Subject: Tuesday News from MDE 013112

It has finally happened!! The new meal pattern has been released. So this will be a brief, two topic Tuesday News. Let's start with the topic we have all been waiting for...the new meal patterns:

- 1) **New Meal Pattern Requirements** – The new breakfast and lunch meal patterns have been released by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). To begin, I will give you a few links that will be important for you to read to help understand the new meal pattern:
 - The first link, <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/legislation/dietaryspecs.pdf>, is the actual new meal patterns for breakfast and lunch. To more completely understand the new meal patterns, be sure to read the footnotes a-p.
 - The second link, <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/legislation/comparison.pdf>, offers in chart form, a great comparison of the old requirements to the new requirements for both breakfast and lunch. In addition, a chart detailing the nutrient content of the meals is included. In relation to the nutrient content, School Food Authorities (SFAs), will NOT be required to do this analysis – the state will be conducting this analysis in the future as part of what we now call the Coordinated Review Effort (CRE).
 - The third link, www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/SP10-2012sNew_Meal_375324_7.pdf, is a memo from USDA in Question and Answer format that should help clarify many of your questions. Lastly, sometime within the next week, we will post a videotaped webinar with a PowerPoint USDA presented to the states regarding the changes in the meal patterns. After reading the information in the above links and viewing the webinar, you will have all of the information we have at this point.

As we get more information and answers to the many questions that are already being asked, we will pass them on. In addition, we have staff that will be attending a School Nutrition Association (SNA) conference on March 7, 2012, where USDA will present the latest information. Please be aware that most of these changes will not take place until School Year 2012-2013, so continue to operate the current year under the current meal pattern.

Following are some bullets of the new meal patterns that I think are of special interest:

- Fruits and Vegetables – While the total amounts of fruits and vegetables OFFERED has increased substantially, students will only need to take ½

cup of a fruit or vegetable for the meal to qualify as a reimbursable meal. As in the original proposed new meal patterns, students will be required to take a fruit or vegetable in order for a meal to be reimbursable. While the amount of starchy vegetables is no longer limited, there are still minimum requirements for the serving of the different subgroups of vegetables.

- New Meal Pattern Timeline – Here is another link, http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/Legislation/implementation_timeline.pdf. This link details the timeline for implementation. **Please notice, the changes for breakfast are being phased in over time with the exception of the milk rule (see the next bullet item below).** At the district's option, you may choose to implement the new breakfast guidelines earlier than required.
- Milk Rule – For the coming school year, flavored milk must be skim (no-fat). Unflavored milk may be 1% or skim. You must still offer two choices of milk.
- Nutrient Analysis – The analysis of your menus will be done by the state based on only one week of breakfast and lunch menus as opposed to the proposed two week menu.
- Age/Grade Groups – Under the new meal pattern, there will not be a single meal pattern with quantities that will be able to be served district wide. The age/grade groups will require schools to change quantities to meet all age/grade group requirements.

We will continue to update you with more information as it becomes available. At the conclusion of the videotaped webinar, we will be asking you to send your questions to mde-schoolnutrition@michigan.gov with the "Subject" title "New Meal Pattern." We will likely not answer each question individually; instead, we will issue FAQs as needed.

- 2) **On-Site Reviews** – Remember, each SFA must conduct an annual review of each site. These reviews are due February 1, 2012. So in case you haven't had the opportunity to complete these, the sooner the better. Remember, at Food Service Management Company (FSMC) districts, these reviews cannot be done by FSMC employees. Here is a link to the Administrative Policy and review form if you need them - http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/6_On-Site_Review_w_attachments_367311_7.pdf.

That is it for now!! Read up on the new meal patterns but remember these changes won't be going into effect for some time yet. Hope you are having a great week feeding your students!

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