

Howard's News From MDE

March 1, 2018



Here is the latest from MDE:

HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC) Ending

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced on February 28, 2018, (see attached memo) that the HUSSC award program will no longer be accepting applications effective July 1, 2018.

In response to this announcement, if you were planning on submitting an application, or have an outstanding application needing revision, it should be submitted to Pamela Baker, School Nutrition Program Consultant, at BakerP8@michigan.gov by May 1, 2018. Each application is reviewed at the state level, before being submitted to USDA for final review. In addition to this notice, USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, will host a webinar on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 (see registration site for time). The HUSSC webinar will provide additional guidance to help schools successfully receive awards prior to the program's completion. [Pre-registration](#)ⁱ is required for this webinar.

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please contact Pamela Baker at BakerP8@michigan.gov or at 517-241-2096.

March Monthly Training Topic

The attached monthly training topic for March is Grains, Meat/Meat Alternates: Fast Facts. We hope you find this information helpful.

Pre-School Meal Sponsors: Serving Meat and Meat Alternates at Breakfast - Webinar

This webinar will focus on the option to serve meat and meat alternates in place of grains at breakfast in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and pre-school meal patterns. When: Thursday, March 15, 2018 (see registration site for time) - [Pre-registration](#)ⁱⁱ is required.

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ⁱ <https://cc.readytalk.com/registration/#/?meeting=m9q5zvrq26ng&campaign=arvyij02zjjm>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp-half-time-thirty-thursdays-training-webinar-series>



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

DATE: February 28, 2018

SUBJECT: Completion of the HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC) Award Program

TO: State Agencies and National Partners of HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC) Award Program

Dear State Agencies and National Partners:

As part of USDA's commitment to ensure that all our programs are delivered efficiently and effectively, and to avoid duplicating the efforts of the private sector, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service will no longer be accepting applications for the HealthierUS School Challenge (formally known as the HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms or HUSSC: SL) Award Program, effective July 1, 2018.

The HealthierUS School Challenge has inspired and assisted thousands of schools in implementing the school meal patterns in an exemplary manner. Since 2004, over 10,700 awards have been given to schools in 50 States and the District of Columbia.

In the nearly 15 years since HUSSC's inception, other recognition programs have launched, such as the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Healthy Schools Program and many State-based programs that help promote similar goals. USDA is committed to supporting our stakeholders in their continued efforts to recognize schools that go above and beyond to promote health and nutrition among their student body.

USDA recognizes the value the award program has had to our stakeholders and is committed to maintaining the program through the end of the 2017-2018 school year (June 30, 2018). USDA will continue to work with schools during this phase-out period and provide support as they close-out the application process. Any applications submitted to State agencies by June 30, 2018 will be reviewed for approval. The USDA National Office will announce the final set of awards by December 31, 2018.

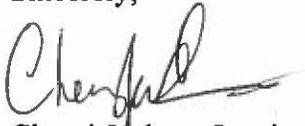
USDA encourages schools to stay up-to-date on the latest school nutrition program information and resources available by joining Team Nutrition (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/team-nutrition>) and ordering or downloading free, exciting, and fun materials that can help them promote school nutrition.

Lastly, USDA will host a HUSSC webinar on March 13, 2018 to provide additional guidance to help schools successfully receive awards prior to the program's completion. Please visit our HUSSC Web site and look out for an announcement on PartnerWeb.

State Agencies
National Partners
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Thank you for your continued support of the Child Nutrition Programs and all that you do to help improve the lives of children across the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheryl Jackson Lewis", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cheryl Jackson Lewis
Director

Nutrition, Education, Training and Technical Assistance Division

Office of Health and Nutrition Services

School Nutrition Programs

The Monthly Training topic for March is Grains, Meat/Meat Alternates: Fast Facts. We hope you find this information helpful.

GRAINS: Fast Facts

All grains offered in the breakfast and lunch meals must be whole grain-rich (WGR). What does WGR mean?

- WGR means that at least 50% of the food item contains a whole grain or a combination of whole grains, and the remaining product/blend must be *enriched* flour.

How are grains credited in school meals?

- Grains credit in the programs using ounce equivalencies (oz eq).
- Calculate grain oz eq using:
 - Ounce weights listed in [USDA memo SP 30-2012 and updated Exhibit Aⁱ](#), or
 - Grams of creditable grain in each product, documented by a standardized recipe or manufacturer [Product Formulation Statementⁱⁱ](#) (PFS).
- Product Formulation Statements (PFS) may provide crediting that is different from Exhibit A.
- Ready-to-eat (RTE) cereals must list a whole grain as the first ingredient and any non-whole grain cereal must be fortified. Cereals made from 100% whole grains are not required to be fortified.

How many oz eq grains do I offer at meals?

- Plan to offer the amount shown below each day and week. These are minimum amounts and you may offer more.

<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Lunch</u>
K-12 Daily: 1-ounce equivalent	K-8 Daily: 1-ounce equivalent
K-5 Weekly: 7-ounce equivalents	K-8 Weekly: 8-ounce equivalents
6-8 Weekly: 8-ounce equivalents	9-12 Daily: 2-ounce equivalents
9-12 Weekly: 9-ounce equivalents	9-12 Weekly: 10-ounce equivalents

Common Findings:

1. Weekly grain minimum wasn't met at breakfast and lunch.
How to fix:
 - ✓ At each service line: Offer 1.5 or 2 oz eq grains *daily*. (grades 9-12 need 2 oz eq)
 - ✓ Check second choice options. Does your peanut butter and jelly sandwich meal meet requirements if chosen daily?
2. All grains are not WGR.
How to fix:
 - ✓ Conduct frequent taste tests for new WGR products to get student input.
 - ✓ Apply for a WGR exemption of products unacceptable to students at www.michigan.gov/schoolnutrition.
3. A grain is not offered at breakfast when offering a meat/meat alternate.
How to fix:
 - ✓ Offer 1 oz eq of grain daily before an optional meat/meat alternate item is offered on the same day. The meat/meat alternate can then credit towards the grain requirement.
4. Too many grain-based desserts are offered at lunch.
How to fix:
 - ✓ Offer a maximum of 2 oz eq grain-based desserts each week. This includes graham
 - ✓ crackers.

Meat/Meat Alternates: Fast Facts

What is a meat/meat alternate (m/ma)?

- M/MA are protein foods like:
 - ✓ Lean meats
 - ✓ Nuts and seeds
 - ✓ Nut butter
 - ✓ Tofu and soy products
 - ✓ Yogurt
 - ✓ Cheese and eggs
 - ✓ Beans/peas (legumes)

How are m/ma credited in school meals?

- M/MA credit in the programs using ounce equivalencies (oz eq).
- To determine crediting for m/ma use:
 - [USDA Food Buying Guide](#)ⁱⁱⁱ
 - [Product Formulation Statements](#)^{iv} (PFS) for processed meat products
 - [Child Nutrition \(CN\) label](#)^v, if available, for processed meat products

How many oz eq of m/ma do I offer at meals?

- Breakfast: Optional – a m/ma does not have to be offered at breakfast.
- Lunch: Required to offer m/ma. Plan to offer the amount shown below each day and week. These are minimum amounts and you may offer more.

Lunch

K-8 Daily: 1-ounce equivalent

K-5 Weekly: 8-ounce equivalents

K-8 Weekly: 9-ounce equivalents

9-12 Daily: 2-ounce equivalents

9-12 Weekly: 10-ounce equivalents

Common Findings:

1. Weekly m/ma minimum wasn't met at lunch.

How to fix:

- ✓ At each service line: Offer 1.5 or 2 oz eq m/ma *daily*. (grades 9-12 need 2 oz eq)
- ✓ Check second choice options. Does your peanut butter and jelly sandwich meal meet requirements if chosen daily?

2. A m/ma is offered at breakfast and there is no grain offered at breakfast.

How to fix:

- ✓ You must offer 1 oz eq grain daily before an optional m/ma item is offered. The m/ma credits towards the grain requirement at breakfast.

ⁱ <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cn/SP30-2012os.pdf>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cnlabeling/food-manufacturersindustry>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-for-child-nutrition-programs>

^{iv} <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cnlabeling/food-manufacturersindustry>

^v <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cnlabeling/food-manufacturersindustry>