

**From:** Bushong, Linda (MDE) **On Behalf Of** Leikert, Howard J (MDE)  
**Sent:** Monday, February 04, 2013 1:13 PM  
**To:** MDE-SchoolNutrition  
**Subject:** Weekly News from MDE 020413

There is big news!! The proposed competitive food rule has just been issued. I will start with that and then give you some more information:

- 1) Competitive Food Rule – United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued a proposed new competitive food rule. Here is a link that will take you to USDA's press release:  
<http://content.govdelivery.com/bulletins/gd/USDAOC-6a1e31>. There is a 160 page draft document that USDA has sent out to State Agencies. Here is a link to that document: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cga/020113-snacks.pdf>. The School Nutrition Staff will be attending a webinar on the proposed rule on Tuesday at which time we may be in a better position to release some type of summary to spare you all of reading 160 pages. In addition, I just received a fact sheet from USDA, here is the link:  
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cga/020113-qas.pdf>. This is an important rule that will not just affect Food Service Directors and their programs but also principals, school groups, and administrators. USDA is encouraging feedback on the new rule. This is a proposed rule at this point so it will be important for you and other district personnel to comment to USDA. USDA will be allowing 60 days for the comment period. A couple of quick comments on the rule from having just skimmed through it:
  - a. Foods Sold – The rule addresses food SOLD on school campuses so it would not affect a parent bringing in cupcakes for their child's birthday.
  - b. Fundraisers – These activities can continue especially when the fundraisers sell foods consistent with nutrient standards that will be detailed in the rule. Fundraisers outside of these nutrition based food items will be limited.
  - c. Snacks – Snack and a la carte items will have nutrient requirements, i.e., sodium, calories, fat.

I could go on but will wait until I have a better summary, hopefully, provided by USDA. More information to come soon!!

- 2) Video of the Week - Check out Meeting the Challenge Video stars: Jennifer Dietrich and Katie McConkie. They discuss how they serve colorful vegetables that kids enjoy. This video also features a Chef Demo of Three Sisters Salsa: <http://ow.ly/eqBav>. For a copy of the recipes click here: [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Meeting\\_the\\_Challenge\\_Recipe\\_Book\\_403050\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Meeting_the_Challenge_Recipe_Book_403050_7.pdf).
- 3) Service Awards - The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and School Nutrition Association of Michigan (SNAM) would like to recognize school food

service professionals that have completed their 25th year of service in providing Michigan students healthy and nutritious meals. Help us celebrate the dedication of those men and women that have met the challenge of serving our children school meals for 25 years. If you, or any of your employees, have been actively and directly involved with the National School Lunch Program in Michigan (public and non-public schools) for 25 years, please let us know. Fill out the short survey found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/P9YGZ5C> by March 1, 2013. Award certificates for 25 years of service will be mailed to the School Food Authority in April 2013. Awardees will also be recognized at the SNAM Fall Conference held in Traverse City, Michigan on November 8-10, 2013.

- 4) Final Rule on Nutrition Standards – Attached are the Q&As and revised policy for SP 10-2012. The policy memo will describe the changes in the actual Q&A document which is now 57 pages long. Changes appear to be:
  - a. Allowing added sugar in frozen fruits through the '13-'14 school year. For breakfast, the '14-'15 school year.
  - b. You can offer hash browns at breakfast as an extra if it fits within the dietary requirements for the week.
  - c. Several references to the elimination (for now) of the maximum grains and meat/meat alternates as long as calories are not exceeded. USDA has not told us yet if this change will be extended into next year, however, they did ask for comments from State Agencies. I commented that I thought it was a positive change and believed there would be support in continuing this approach.
  
- 5) 6 Cent Certification – I want to thank and congratulate all of the schools that have submitted their 6 Cent Certification. We did find a technical issue which caused some delay of a few of the October - November submissions but they have been addressed. There are still about 300 that are still "In Process of Creation." We recommend you complete your application this year in order to receive the additional reimbursement. In addition, this year the process for breakfast is based on the current breakfast meal pattern....next year it will be based on the new meal pattern. There are also many applications which are in the status of "Returned for Modification." In this status, MDE is waiting for the district to complete the modification(s) before we can go any further. We understand that this has been a long (too long in some cases), difficult process but we are now able to complete approvals on a regular basis when we have the required information. So thank you for your work and cooperation on this very significant project!!

We will keep you updated on the new competitive food rule. Have a great week!

Howard Leikert, MBA, SNS  
Supervisor

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United States  
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DATE: January 25, 2013

MEMO CODE: SP 10-2012 - REVISED

SUBJECT: Questions & Answers on the Final Rule, "Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs"

TO: Regional Directors  
Special Nutrition Programs  
All Regions

State Directors  
Child Nutrition Programs  
All States

Attached are Questions & Answers (QAs) on the final rule to update the school meals offered under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, as required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. This guidance addresses the final rule overall, and includes questions on general and specific aspects of the new meal requirements. This document is updated periodically to issue additional QAs as they arise during the implementation of the new meal requirements.

This issue includes new QAs that highlight the meal pattern flexibilities, some QAs based on operators' feedback, and minor editorial changes to clarify QAs already published. A summary of the revisions and additions to each section is provided below:

Fruits and Vegetables

- Revised questions number 1, 20 and 22

Meat/Meat Alternate:

- Revised questions number 1 and 8, and added question number 9

Grains:

- Added note on grains range flexibility and/or revised questions number 4, 8, 10, 11, 15, 17 and 21; added question number 25

Meal Patterns:

- Added note on grains and meat/meat alternate range flexibility in questions number 1 and 7

Menu Planning:

- Added note on grains and meat/meat alternate range flexibility, revised question number 2 and 8, and added questions number 16

Regional Directors  
State Directors  
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Multiple Offerings:

- Added note on grains and meat/meat alternate range flexibility in question number 1

Offer versus Serve:

- Revised questions number 1 and 7, added note on grains and meat/meat alternate range flexibility in question number 8, and added questions number 9 and 10

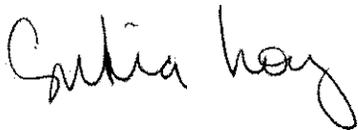
Crediting:

- Added note on grains and meat/meat alternate range flexibility in question number 9, and added questions number 14 to 16

These Questions & Answers and other materials related to the new meal requirements are available on a special webpage on the FNS website:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/Legislation/nutritionstandards.htm>.

We appreciate all you do for the School Meal Programs and look forward to continue working with you to improve the nutrition of America's children. State agencies are reminded to distribute this memo and attachment to program operators immediately. SFAs should contact their State agencies for additional information. State agencies may direct any questions concerning this guidance to the appropriate Food and Nutrition Service Regional Office.



Cynthia Long  
Director  
Child Nutrition Division

Attachment