



School Nutrition Programs (SNP) Web

Application System

The new School Food Services (SFS) web application system is now available for the 2010-2011 school year. The web system does have a new look and feel; however, many of the basic functions remain the same. Acclimating to the new system will take some time, however a Power Point with step by step instructions and a User's Manual is available at www.dese.mo.gov/divadm/food. Thank you for your patience as we remain in the process of approving applications and accepting claims for meals served in August. The new system will also collect information for Food Safety Inspections and the Verification Report. With the new SNP system, SFS will provide messages to LEAs on the "Welcome to the School Nutrition Programs" page of the SNP system.

Food Safety Inspection Reports

The Food Safety Inspection report is currently due in the School Food Services office. If your LEA has not submitted the form, please submit as soon as possible. The form may be found at our new SNP Web Application system at the link above. Click the DESE Web Applications button.

Verification

It is once again time to begin the verification process. The date for determining the verification sample size is October 1. The date for the completion of the verification process is November 15. The verification report must be submitted to the SFS office by December 15. The verification report is available via the new SNP web application system. Instructions and a Power Point presentation for conducting verification can be found at www.dese.mo.gov/divadm/food.

Direct Certification

The Reauthorization Act of 2004 requires that all LEAs in the National School Lunch Program must

implement Direct Certification. Direct Certification simply means that children from families approved to receive food stamps or temporary assistance may be automatically approved to receive free meals (for both breakfast and lunch) without completing an application. If your LEA has not conducted Direct Certification for this school year, please do so. SFS has created a Vocal Power Point to explain Direct Certification. To view this presentation with voice visit SFS Website at <http://dese.mo.gov/divadm/food>.

Extending Categorical Eligibility to Additional Children in a Household

Extended or extension of eligibility means all children or adults in the household who are participating in one or more of the Child Nutrition Programs are categorically eligible for free meals if any member of the household (child or adult) is receiving SNAP, FDPIR or TANF benefits. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) published SP-25-2010 – Questions and Answers on Extending Categorical Eligibility to Additional Children in a Household. This memo can be found at SFS website at http://dese.mo.gov/divadm/food/documents/SP_25_2010.pdf.

National School Lunch Week

National School Lunch week is October 11-15, 2010 and the theme this year is "School Lunch: What's on Your Plate?" So what is on your plate? There are five personality types that go along with the theme: Strong, Creative, Radiant, Balanced, and Chilled. The different personality types of your students can be determined with a simple profile quiz. The characteristics of each personality are brought to life in the form of boy and girl avatar illustrations to meet the goal of getting everyone involved. The April 2010 issue of *School Nutrition* the article 'School Lunch: What's on Your Plate?' gives

suggestions and tips on how to make the theme this year a successful one. A few include sending home a copy of the personality quiz, displaying posters of the characters in the lunch rooms, an essay contest, or recipe contest. These are just some of the ways listed to get students and families involved with National School Lunch Week.

Visit <http://whatsonyourtray.org> for more ideas and suggestions!! The webpage also provides menus, flyer, posters, and more.

School Cafeterias are the doorway to Healthy Eating and Nutrition Education

Nutrition education is one component of all Local School Wellness Policies. By regulation wellness policies are to set goals for nutrition education. The school cafeteria and you, as a food service professional in the school, can be an important nutrition education link for the school in these important ways.

- Plan meals that illustrate MyPyramid principals – offering attractive foods from all food groups in correct portions. Don't practice portion distortion.
- Focus on healthy preparation – use recipes that preserve the natural flavors of foods with little added fat or sodium. Don't overcook foods so they lose their natural colors.
- Provide point of service information to help students make smart food choices. Add signs at the serving area to highlight entrée choices that are lower in calories, foods high in specific nutrients, or campus specials. Help students make healthy food choices.
- Encourage students to select a full meal. Let them know about foods available. One study found students not only selected more fruits when prompted by servers but also ate more of those selected.
- Partner with classroom teachers by supplying nutrition education materials to them, parents and students. Many excellent posters, flyers, and booklets are available free of charge to schools. USDA maintains a library of resources for food service professionals. Materials are available free of charge but quantities are

limited; however, material may be reordered as needed.

In March when first Lady Michelle Obama spoke of the School Nutrition Association Legislative Action conference, she said the *"the cafeteria is actually one of the most important classrooms in the entire school"*. Be the nutrition education professional in your school.

See this web site for MyPyramid information – <http://www.mypyramid.gov/index.html>

2009-2010 Coordinated Review Effort

Results

During the 2009-2010 school year, the School Food Services Section conducted 141 CRE reviews. Eight of the Local Education Agencies (LEAs) did not meet Performance Standard 1; which evaluates student eligibility determinations, and meal counting and claiming procedures for accuracy. All LEAs reviewed did meet Performance Standard 2; which evaluates meals on the day of review for meal component completeness. Please take extra care when determining eligibility, meal counting and claiming, and monitoring meals for required components to ensure the LEA is providing the State Agency (SA) with an accurate count of reimbursable free, reduced price, and paid meals served.