

CHILD NUTRITION TODAY



A Newsletter for School Food Service

Vol. 8, No. 1

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

April 2002

From the State Coordinator, Fran O'Donnell

Think Breakfast! is a New York State strategic initiative designed to motivate children to eat a healthy breakfast at home or at school every day. It is targeted to principals, teachers and parents because they can influence breakfast consumption by children.

Nutritionists often cite breakfast as the day's most important meal and the foundation of healthy eating habits. We want educators, teachers and parents to know that breakfast consumption helps to ensure that all children are prepared to face classroom challenges and should be perceived as a viable tool in improving classroom performance.

Think Breakfast! is a five week initiative that begins March 25, 2002 and runs through May 17, 2002. Teachers are



Think Breakfast!

**The day's most
important meal . . .
a tool in improving
classroom performance**

**visit our website
www.thinkbreakfast.net**

asked to select five weeks within that timeframe to record student breakfast consumption. At the end of the timeframe the teacher submits a summary to the State Education Department. Students will then be selected for prizes donated by corporate sponsors. Prizes will be awarded in nine regions of the State. The *Think Breakfast!* teacher packet includes a CD-ROM featuring an exciting music video that will appeal to students, a breakfast video game to engage the students to play and learn, age-appropriate lesson plans, a parent letter in both English and Spanish to send home with children to encourage family participation, a dynamic promotional poster, and a *Think Breakfast!* progress chart and summary sheet to be used in

the classroom to track student participation and progress. Every student who participates receives a colorful refrigerator magnet. In addition, a web site: www.thinkbreakfast.net has been established.

We have been asked, "How does this strategy affect the school food service director or manager?" Directors/managers should be prepared to feed more students during the promotion. They also should review their menus and choices so that children will find breakfast at school a good way to start their day. If students find appealing choices in the morning, they will be motivated to continue to have breakfast when the promotion is over this year.

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Meeting the Regulations

Eligibility of Minors Participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs in County Correctional Facilities

In accordance with federal regulation 7 CFR 210.2 and Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Instruction 776-7, correctional facilities are eligible to participate in the National School Lunch (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) as Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCIs). Most correctional facilities are not established principally for the care of minors. Although many facilities may have some inmates under 21 years of age, the majority of correctional facilities were established to incarcerate adult offenders.

RCCIs that primarily serve and care for adults must ensure that residing minors are located in a distinct part of the facility (such as a separate wing or area) designed primarily for minors. Minors or age-appropriate inmates are defined as those under 21 years of age. They may only be claimed for reimbursement up until the date of their 21st birthday. Correctional facilities may not claim reimbursement for breakfasts and lunches served to minors that are co-mingled with the adult population.

While our office welcomes the participation of correctional facilities in the NSLP and SBP, it is essential that they comply with federal regulations and only claim reimbursement for breakfasts and lunches served to minors who are housed separately from the adult population.

Guidance for Accommodating Children with Special Dietary Needs in the School Nutrition Programs Now Available

In recent years, we have seen increasing emphasis on the importance of ensuring that children with disabilities have the same opportunities as other children to receive an education and education-related benefits, such as school meals.

Congress first addressed this concern in *The Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, which prohibits discrimination against qualified persons with disabilities in the programs or activities of any agency of the federal government's executive branch or any organization receiving federal financial assistance.

Subsequently, Congress passed the *Education of the Handicapped Act*, (now, the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*), which requires that a free and appropriate

public education be provided for children with disabilities, who are aged three through 21, and the *Americans with Disabilities Act*, a comprehensive law which broadens and extends civil rights protections for Americans with disabilities.

One effect of these laws has been an increase in the number of children with disabilities who are being educated in regular school programs. In some cases, the disability may prevent the child from eating meals prepared for the general school population.

The United States Department of Agriculture's nondiscrimination regulation (7 CFR 15b), as well as the regulations governing the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program, make it clear that substitutions to the regular meal must be made for children who are unable to eat school meals because of their disabilities, when that need is certified by a licensed physician.

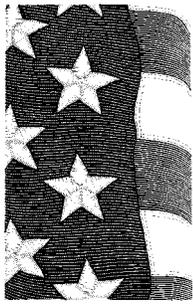
In most cases, children with disabilities can be accommodated with little extra expense or involvement. The nature of the child's disability, the reason the disability prevents the child from eating the regular school meal, and the specific substitutions needed must be specified in a statement signed by a licensed physician. Often, the substitutions can be made relatively easily. There are situations, however, which may require additional equipment or specific technical training and expertise. When these instances occur, it is important that school food service managers and parent(s) be involved at the outset in preparations for the child's entrance into the school.

A guidance is available that describes some of the factors which may be considered in early phases of planning and suggests ways in which the school food service can interact with other responsible parties in the school and the community at large to serve children with disabilities.

Serving children with disabilities presents school food service staff with new challenges as well as rewards. This guidance presents information on how to handle situations that may arise and offers advice about such issues as funding and liability.

The guidance was prepared in consultation with the United States Department of Justice and the United States Department of Education and will be periodically updated to reflect new scientific information or new statutory and program guidelines.

The guidance can be obtained at www.fns.usda.gov/cnd. Select "guidance" from the left menu bar.



Buy American Provision

Section 104(d) of the William F. Goodling Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act of 1998 requires schools and institutions participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) in the contiguous United States to purchase, to the maximum extent practicable, domestic commodities or products for use in meals served under the NSLP and SBP. The legislation defines "domestic commodity or product" as one that is produced and processed in the United States substantially using agricultural commodities that are produced in the United States. The report accompanying the legislation stipulated that "substantially" means that over 51 percent of the final processed product consists of agricultural commodities that were grown domestically. Regulations implementing these requirements were published on September 20, 1999. Nevertheless,

the domestic food industry continues to express concerns that program funds are being used to purchase foreign agricultural products. In response to this concern, report language accompanying the Agriculture Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2002 requires the Department to report to Congress on its activities directed toward enforcing the Buy American provision.

Given the importance that Congress attaches to the "Buy American" provision and the role this provision plays in helping to stabilize the American agricultural economy, it is essential that school food authorities (SFAs) understand the need to ensure that all purchases of agricultural commodities and food products comply with this statutory provision. The provision should be included in bid specifications to ensure compliance. SFAs must also be aware that, as a result of explicit language also contained in the report noted above, this provision now applies to all funds in the food service account and not just to federal reimbursement.

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For Your Information

Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) Training

The New York State Education Department will sponsor three daylong (8:00 a.m. to 4:30p.m.) HACCP training sessions for school food service professionals. One session will be held in the Buffalo region and two separate sessions are planned for the Albany area. The objective of this training session is to enhance the knowledge base of school food service personnel to prepare and serve safe school meals to our State's children at breakfast and lunch. The dates, locations and contact people are as follows:

DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT
Wednesday April 17, 2002	Erie 1 BOCES Conference Room A 355 Harlem Road West Seneca, NY 14224-1892	Joan Gaczewski (716) 821-7350
Tuesday April 23, 2002	Child Nutrition Program Administration Conference Room 119 Washington Avenue Albany, NY 12210	Dee Krawczyk (518) 474-3956
Wednesday April 24, 2002	Child Nutrition Program Administration Conference Room 119 Washington Avenue Albany, NY 12210	Dee Krawczyk (518) 474-3956

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This professional development opportunity is based on the program "HACCP for Child Nutrition Programs: Building on the Basics" developed by the National Food Service Management Institute located at the University of Mississippi. It was designed specifically to meet the needs of school food service professionals, such as directors and cook managers interested in developing a HACCP program for implementation in their school. The HACCP concept will be examined through discussion as well as activities designed to offer participants the skills needed to develop a HACCP plan in schools. Upon completion of the full day, participants

will receive a certification of accomplishment.

This training session is not an introductory course in food service sanitation. Rather, it will specialize in the HACCP system, building on previous knowledge, experience and interest. All participants should have a working knowledge of sanitation, food safety and food-borne illness. It is preferable, but not required, that attendees have completed SED's 10-hour food service sanitation course.

Those interested may register by calling the contact person listed at the site they plan to attend. Seating is limited; confirmations will be done on a first-come/first-serve basis. If you have any questions about the meetings, please call the contact person.

Reporting Eligible Students for Claiming Purposes

By: Sandra Ragule, Assistant. Sandra has worked for the Education Department since 1978 and is currently responsible for monitoring the schools participating in the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, and Special Milk Programs in the region from Clinton county south to Columbia county and including Putnam county along the eastern region of New York State. Her duties also include the coordination of resources for the Child Nutrition office.

When filing claims for reimbursement, the person responsible for completing the report should use the highest number of free and reduced price

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Application – Q&As

Q. *How do you determine the eligibility for free and reduced price meals for children whose household family size/income is affected by military personnel who are deployed because of the events of September 11, 2001?*

A. Persons who are deployed because of the tragic events of September 11th should be considered temporarily absent. Temporarily absent means that those deployed service members are included in the household size and their income is included as household income.

Q. *What are Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA) payments and should they be counted as earned income to the household?*

A. The Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-398) requires the Armed Forces to pay certain low-income service members and their families a FSSA so they will not have to rely on food stamps. The FSSA is not to exceed \$500 a month. The Armed Forces began paying the FSSA payment to eligible service members in June 2001.

For child nutrition program eligibility determination purposes, the FSSA payments must be counted as earned income to the household. We have been advised that the Leave and Earnings Statement for the Marines will

identify the payment as "FSSA". The Leave and Earnings Statement for the Army, Navy and Air Force will temporarily identify the payment as "Saved Pay" and subsequently be changed to identify the payment as "FSSA".

Please note that some military families receiving FSSA payments may still be income eligible for free or reduced price meal benefits. Other military families receiving FSSA payments also may be certified to receive food stamp benefits (despite the FSSA payment); these families would be categorically eligible for free meals in the child nutrition programs.

Q. *May school officials make the submission of a free and reduced price meal application a requirement for all households with children enrolled in their school, regardless of whether the household wishes to make application for free or reduced price meal benefits?*

No. While school officials must make families aware of the availability of free and reduced price meals and may even request that households apply, school officials may not require that a household submit an application for free or reduced price meal benefits. A school or school food authority wishing to require income information from all households with enrolled children must secure that income information through means other than the household's application for free or reduced price school meal benefits.

eligible students approved during the month for every month except October. This is true whether you are completing claims on-line or on paper. The reason you must report the highest number of students eligible throughout the month is because the number of students eligible in the school/facility on the last day does not necessarily reflect the highest number of free and reduced price students served during the month.

For example, if five children in one family eligible for free meals during November moved from the district in the middle of the month, the number of free eligible students reported should include these five, even though they weren't enrolled on November 30th. If the number reported didn't include the five students and the school's participation for free meals is high in the early weeks of November, the number of

free meals claimed may result in an edit rejection. Your claim will not be processed until information received documents the reason why the number of eligible free meals claimed exceeded the number of free eligibles.

For the month of October, you should report the total number of children approved for free lunches, the total number of children approved for reduced priced lunches and the total number of children enrolled in participating public, private and residential child care institutions on the last day of operation in October. This information, reported to the United States Department of Agriculture, is the only time an unduplicated count is taken of eligible children. This data is used for forecasting and analyzing participation data in the program.

Decision on late payment charges and Child Nutrition Programs

The United States Department of Agriculture recently advised us of a decision regarding late payment charges for school food authorities (SFAs) using a food service management company. Late payment charges are unallowable costs according to the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-87. SFAs subject to late payment charges cannot charge these costs to the nonprofit school food service account. This prohibition extends to all federal and non-federal funds contained within the nonprofit school food service account, not just federal reimbursement payments. SFAs must use other sources of funds to pay late charges.

Claims for Reimbursement

An increasing number of school food authorities (SFAs) are not eligible to receive reimbursement because they do not submit their monthly claims for reimbursement on time. Claims should be submitted as soon as possible following the month covered by the claim.

SFAs must submit final claims for reimbursement no later than 60 days following the last day of the full month covered by the claim. Since some months have 28, 29, 30 and 31 days, the 60 days does not automatically become the last day of the second month as many are interpreting it to be. If the claim has not been entered on the Child Nutrition Management System (CNMS) or post-marked within the 60 days, it cannot be paid unless otherwise authorized by the United States Department of Agriculture.

While SFAs may use a one-time exemption every three years to recover those funds far too many SFAs are needlessly losing funds they are entitled to receive. Why not make it a personal

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Best Practices Award

CNMS Receives Best Practices Award

By: Richard Connell, Supervisor, Child Nutrition Reimbursement Unit

The Child Nutrition Management System (CNMS) recently received a 2001 Best Practices Award from the New York State Forum for Information Resource Management (NYSFIRM) of the Rockefeller Institute of Government. NYFIRM is a network of public officials and state and local government organizations concerned with information management, policy, and technology. Each year, NYFIRM recognizes outstanding accomplishments by State and local government staff in the categories of Management, Digital Preservation and Technical Implementation. CNMS received the Management award.

CNMS is a web-based system for claim processing and program management in the Child Nutrition Program. The design, development and production of CNMS was a cooperative effort involving staff of the Child Nutrition Reimbursement, Child Nutrition Program Administration and Information Technology Services offices of the New York State Education Department and the Oracle Corporation. For information on accessing CNMS, visit the CNMS web site at <http://www.nysed.gov/cn/cnms.htm>. For an in-depth discussion of CNMS read the interview with Rich Connell, CNMS Project Manager in the December issue of the NYFIRM newsletter Open Forum at <http://www.nysfirm.org/documents/dec2001of.pdf>.

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commitment to get those claims in within 30 days so you do not get caught by the calendar!

NOTE: Some auditors are citing districts that do not file on CNMS since the SFAs do not get their claims paid quickly, which results in less interest to the SFA on monies earned.



Establishing a Meal Charge Policy

We frequently receive questions from parents as well as school food service directors regarding charge policies. The following information should help you establish a policy that will comply with current regulations.

Regulations allow schools that participate in Child Nutrition Programs to have a system in place for students to charge meals. The decision to implement such a system rests at a local level, i.e. the governing body of the school, school board, etc. If you do not have an official policy, cashiers in each of your buildings will establish one that could get you in trouble!

When the decision is made to allow charges, a policy should be established (and parents notified of the policy), which addresses:

1. What can be charged;
2. The limit (if any) on the number of charges allowed per student. You must allow a minimum of three charges;
3. The system used for identifying and recording all charge meals;
4. The system used for collecting repayments;
5. Communication of the policy to parents and students.

If left unregulated, charge meals can accumulate and cause an unwarranted financial burden on the school lunch account.

Denying Meals

A student who has abused an established charge policy can be refused a meal. Such a refusal is not considered to be in violation of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended, or the National School Lunch Act. However, before denying any student a meal, school food authorities (SFAs) should carefully consider the negative consequences of such an action. Be sure you are not denying meals to very young children or children with disabilities. It is important to remember that the basis for denial of a meal to any child is the presence of a board policy that has been provided to every family in writing, and followed up in writing prior to the actual denial of the meal.

Claiming Charged Meals

Care must be taken to maintain a system for accounting for charged meals that follows State guidelines. These guidelines are:

1. All categories of paying students (full price and reduced price) must be allowed to charge meals according to the Board's prescribed policy.
2. Charged meals must be counted and claimed for reimbursement on the day the student charged (received) the meal, not the day the charge is paid back.
3. When charges are paid, these monies are not to be considered "a la carte" transactions. A section on the daily cash report or deposit summary should be provided which identifies "charges paid". An audit trail should be established that identifies the monies for charges paid as "Sale of Meals to Children" for ST-3 or Analysis of Cash Resources reporting purposes.

Donation of Leftover Food to Charitable Organizations

By: Sandra Ragule, Assistant

The United States Department of Agriculture has been a proponent of expanding the national movement to use food recovery and gleaning as an effective means of reducing food waste and helping the hungry. Consequently, we are frequently asked about diverting leftovers to this worthy cause.

Child Nutrition Program regulations require schools to prepare and maintain food production records to control production. Under-producing food items result in unhappy customers when food items run out before the end of service. Overproduction results in increased food costs which is unwise when you are trying to keep the cost of the meal to students as low as possible.

While school food directors/managers should continue to plan production for one meal per child per day, we realize that forecasting the amount of food to prepare is a difficult task, which may result in leftover food. However, there are occasions when it is appropriate to donate wholesome leftovers, which cannot be reused, to appropriate non-profit organizations that feed the needy.

We are not advocating overproduction or increased food costs in order to be charitable. Whenever possible, leftovers should be served the next day or frozen for another day. However

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TIDBIT

More than 99 percent of our bodies' calcium is contained in our bones and teeth. The other one percent is in our blood.

there are certain circumstances that could result in your inability to retain food items. For example, a power failure or snowstorm prior to a long vacation may result in the inability to hold food safely. When donating food, be sure that the transfer is in accordance with State and local sanitation and health codes, and that correct sanitation procedures are followed to ensure the food quality and safety of the food throughout the transportation process.

We encourage directors/managers to become aware of food recovery efforts in their area so they know the procedures to follow. Recovery programs have been instrumental in instilling the impor-

tance of volunteerism in today's youth. These programs encourage students to volunteer and work together with school administrators and school food service directors to rescue and deliver unused food from cafeterias to agencies that feed the hungry. You can learn about one of the successful programs based on Long Island called "Rock and Wrap It Up" by accessing its web site, www.rockandwrapitup.org.

For additional information pertaining to gleaning and food recovery, refer to USDA's Gleaning and Food Recovery Home Page at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/MENU/GLEANING/RECOVER.HTM>



DATES TO REMEMBER

**MAY 6-10:
CHILD NUTRITION
EMPLOYEE
Appreciation Week**



Q & As Suppers in Afterschool Programs

Q. *What programs qualify for supper?*

A. School food authorities (SFAs) that have organized afterschool programs and located in low-income areas may participate. Organized afterschool programs would typically include education or enrichment activities known to help reduce or prevent children's involvement in high-risk behavior. An area is considered low-income if one of the schools serving the area has 50 percent or more of its enrolled students certified as eligible to receive free or reduced price school meals.

Q. *What is the age limit for participating children?*

A. Meals served to schoolchildren up to 19 years old who participate in organized afterschool programs in low-income areas can be reimbursed.

Q. *What is the reimbursement rate for supper?*

A. Qualifying programs receive the free rate of reimbursement for supper meals, currently \$2.17 per meal.

Q. *How is this program available?*

A. The At Risk Supper program is available to schools through the New York State Department of Health Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

Q. *Can a program qualify for supper if they already receive reimbursement for snack?*

Yes. Many SFAs have taken advantage of snack reim-

bursement for after-school programs through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). If the after-school programs operate in an eligible area, schools may participate in both the at-risk snack and supper programs. It will remain the SFAs option as to whether or not they wish to participate in the snack component under the NSLP or if they want to claim snacks along with supper under the CACFP.

Q. *Are there time guidelines that need to be followed for serving supper?*

A. Three hours must elapse between the beginning of each meal service. This may be difficult for schools who wish to provide both supper and snack, and may decide to provide supper instead of snack. The service of supper can make a significant difference in the nutritional intake of the children.

Q. *What is the meal pattern requirement for supper?*

A. The supper meal must meet the same requirement as for lunch, but does not include the offer versus serve provision. Therefore, students must take all required items of the meal pattern for the meal to be reimbursable.

Q. *How does an SFA sign up to receive supper reimbursement?*

A. SFAs that want to add the supper component must apply to CACFP at the NY State Department of Health. Applications are accepted continuously. At this time, residential child care institutions are not eligible to claim supper. For more information, or to obtain an application call 1-800-942-3858.

About the State Education Department

Mission: *To raise the knowledge, skill, and opportunity of all people in New York.*

The State Education Department is responsible for general supervision of all educational institutions in the State, for operating certain educational and cultural institutions, and for certifying teachers and certifying or licensing practitioners of thirty-eight professions. The Department's supervisory activities include chartering all educational institutions in the State, including schools, libraries, and historical societies; devel-

oping and approving school curricula; and providing and coordinating vocational rehabilitation services.

In addition, the commissioner exercises a quasi-judicial authority to review, upon appeal, the actions of any local school official or board. The Department operates the New York State School for the Blind at Batavia and the New York State School for the Deaf at Rome. The Office of Cultural Education includes the State Museum and Science Service, State Library, State Archives and Records Administration and the Public Broadcasting Program, which maintain scientific and cultural research collections and provide services to State

government and the public.

A Board of Regents, consisting of sixteen members elected by the legislature, governs the State Education Department. The Board is also head of The University of the State of New York (different from the State University of New York, which is the public university system of the State) consisting of all public and private schools, colleges and universities, and chartered libraries, museums, historical societies and other educational institutions in the State. The Department's chief executive officer is the Commissioner of Education and President of the University, who is appointed by the Board of Regents.

Resources

By: *Sandra Ragule, Assistant*

Resources Available FREE

In June of 2001, the National Food Service Management Institute sent a survey to all New York State schools participating in the National School Lunch Program offering you the opportunity to order some resources at no charge. The items available included 1) a guide to Centralized Foodservice Systems, 2) sets of food safety mini-posters in both English and Spanish, and 3) printed USDA recipes (or the CD version) with the critical control points identified. Many schools already responded directly to the Institute with their orders. For those schools that did not or if you need additional copies, we now have them.

If you wish to order any of the three resources listed above, please e-mail your request to

Sragule@mail.nysed.gov with your name, address and the quantity of the item(s) you would like so they can be forwarded to you from our warehouse.

Changing the Scene

In the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) continuing efforts to address school environment issues that influence students' eating and physical activity practices, an innovative tool kit entitled "Changing the Scene" has been created. Developed to promote discussion of healthy school environments at all levels, the kit provides you with general guidelines for establishing your team and planning for change.

The kit includes:

1. An improvement checklist to help you determine how your school nutrition environment measures up;
2. A video, CD-ROM, and PowerPoint presentation that could be used when talking to groups and urging them to join your team in improving the nutrition environment in your school;
3. A joint statement from five national medical associations and the USDA

explaining the importance of healthy eating to children's long-term health and well-being;

4. The "Healthy Eating" reprint from the National Association of State Boards of Education's school health policy guide, "Fit Healthy and Ready to Learn" discussing establishing school policies to support a healthy school environment;

and

5. An order form for a free copy of the School Health Index: A Self-Assessment and Planning Guide available from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention.

To obtain your free kit online directly from USDA, go to:

www.fns.usda.gov/tn

If you have no internet access, the following copy on page 9 has been included for you.

See page 12 for additional resource

ORDER FORM



Improving the School Nutrition Environment

Please send one free* copy of Changing the Scene to:

Name: _____ Title: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Check all that apply: [] parent [] teacher [] school administrator [] school foodservice staff [] other: _____

(If more than one person from a school requests a kit, your name and phone number may be shared with other interested people from your school.)

Please identify the school where you will be using the kit to make improvements in the nutrition environment:

School Name: _____

School Grades (K-12): _____ Total School Enrollment: _____

School Address: _____

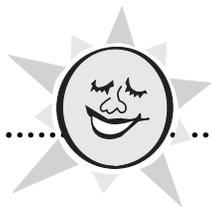
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

How did you find out about the Changing the Scene kit?

- [] Team Nutrition Home Page
[] Association Meeting/Conference: _____
[] In a magazine, journal or newsletter from the following organization: _____
[] Other: _____

Fax this form to: Team Nutrition at 703/305-2549
Or mail to: Team Nutrition, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1010, Alexandria, VA 22302. 703/305-1624
Or order the kit online at: www.fns.usda.gov/tn

* While supplies last.



Summer Food Service Program

New York Shines!

By: Lindsey Osterhout, Nutrition Program Representative

Addison Central School District (Steuben County) is the recipient of the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) 2001 Summer Sunshine Award in the category of Child Development Activities. The Summer Sunshine Awards are national awards that acknowledge the efforts of Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors that go that extra mile in each of the areas of: special populations, child development activities, program access and excellence in meal service.

Addison Central School received an award in 2000 in the category of "Special Populations" for starting a SFSP site in a rural mobile home park, providing children meals and organized activities. In 2001, Addison Central Schools' Food Service Director Christine Wallace and her staff received the award in the category of "Child Development Activities" for their coordination of exciting activities for children prior to their summer lunch hour. Agencies



National Award recipients, – Addison CSD Food Service Department

Left to right:
Julie Mitchell,
Lynn Grabowski,
Nancy Maholick,
Christine Wallace,
Cheryl Hunt,
Norma Yarka,
Dianne Gosper

such as 4-H, the Wellness Council, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and many volunteers, including local legislators and retired teachers, all came together to provide educational and fun activities for the children. The full activity calendar enticed children to participate in the program. Summing up the commitment of Addison Central Schools to the Summer Food Service Program, Ms. Wallace said, ". . . as the saying goes, it takes a village to raise a

providing children meals and organized activities

child. We consider ourselves an important part of the village of Addison and take our responsibility to our children seriously. For the children of Cameron in the summer months, the food service IS the village!"

Ms. Wallace accepted the state award at the New York State School Food Service Association conference this past October. In December, Addison CSD Superintendent, Harold Hall, Ms. Wallace and her staff were presented with the national Summer Sunshine Award at a special ceremony held at the Valley Elementary School. We congratulate them for the second year in a row, for their hard work and dedication in providing such an exciting program for the children of the Addison community. We are proud to have them as a SFSP sponsor and look forward to see what they will do in 2002!

USDA's Northeast Program
Director for Special
Nutrition Programs
John Magnarelli,
Addison CSD Food
Service Director
Christine Wallace,
and Addison
Superintendent
Harold Hall



2001 Summer Food Summit

By Lindsey Osterhout, Nutrition Program Representative

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors were already brainstorming to plan this year's activities at the Nutrition Consortium of New York State's annual *Summer Food Summit* this past October. The Summit gave State Education Department sponsors and USDA sponsors Statewide a chance to gather and "debrief" about the 2001 summer program and meet with administering agency representatives.

There was time to share experiences and ideas regarding what barriers sponsors face, from the administrative end to the front line, what works, what doesn't and what can be done better. Whether its finding eligible sites to have the programs, the application process, staffing shortages etc., sponsors shared the challenges they face and discussed ways to make their programs more successful.

Guest speakers presented topics such as menu planning, child development activities, financial and staffing management and taking advantage of local farm products and community gardens. Participants were able to gain valuable insight into the diversity of programs across the State, and how they can improve their own programs next year.

John Magnarelli, USDA's Northeast Program Director for Special Nutrition Programs, praised attendees for their hard work and dedication to the SFSP. He also stated USDA's intentions to make an all out effort to increase participation in the SFSP program, as there are many areas throughout the State where children are in need of summer meals. State and federal representatives of the SFSP will be working diligently to remove the obstacles that sponsors face in starting programs, and will continue to provide a high level of

technical assistance to experienced, new and potential sponsors to start and keep their programs running successfully.

Lisa Frank and staff from the Nutrition Consortium of NYS did an excellent job in assembling everyone for this very informative session. All attendees left with a wealth of information and new ideas for the summer of 2002.

Seamless Summer Feeding Waiver Now Available for School Food Authorities

In an effort to feed more children residing in low income areas during the summer months, USDA is implementing a new Seamless Summer Feeding Waiver option that will be available for school food authorities (SFAs) operating Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sites this summer.

Seamless Summer Feeding Waiver sites will receive the free National School Lunch Program/School Breakfast Program reimbursement rates, which are

lower than the SFSP reimbursement rates, but they will be exempted from many of the monitoring, record keeping, and reporting regulations that are associated with administering the SFSP.

SFAs may seek approval to operate waiver sites in eligible locations within their jurisdiction from SED by April 19, 2002. Waiver sites may be at schools or other locations where the SFSP meals are normally be served. The sites must be located in needy areas, where 50 percent or more of the children qualify for free or reduced price school meals. Waiver sites may also be established in non-needy areas, provided that at least 50 percent of the children enrolled in programs at these sites qualify for free or reduced price school meals. Residential camps are not eligible to participate as waiver sites.

SFAs received information about the SFSP in a January mailing. If you would like additional information please call the Summer Food Service Program Office at (518) 432-5068.

Apply Now For Summer Meals

Application due dates for 2002 summer meals are as follows:

- April 19, 2002 – for school food authorities (SFAs) who are interested in the Seamless Summer Feeding Waiver;
- May 1, 2002 – for all new Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors and experienced sponsors who did not receive commodities last summer but would like to receive them summer;
- May 25, 2002 – for experienced SFSP sponsors who received commodities last summer and want them again this summer, and for experienced sponsors who do not want commodities this summer. Sites where meals are served only to students attending an accredited summer school are not eligible to participate in the SFSP. In this situation, meals may be reimbursed through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) and SFAs should contact their respective Child Nutrition Program Administration office by this date to update their renewal.

For an application for summer meals, please contact the SFSP office at (518) 432-5068.



Schools Can Help!

How can school professionals help feed children this summer?

- ✓ Become a sponsor of the Summer Food Service Program.
- ✓ If you are already a sponsor, plan to expand your program by adding more feeding sites.
- ✓ If your school or district runs a summer school program, provide meals to students through the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program or the Summer Food Service Program.
- ✓ Prepare and vend meals for community organizations that provide summer activity programs for children.

Additional Resource

Foreign Language Translations Available

Copies of the 19 foreign language applications from the United States Department of Agriculture are available from your Child Nutrition Administration Office. With each request, a copy of the English translation will be provided since the form is a little different from that of New York State's. Be sure to only include the current reduced price scale; a blank form for inserting the scale is provided in each packet. The applications available are: Cambodian, Chinese, Croatian, Creole, French, Hindi, Hmong, Laotian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian, Somali, Spanish, Thai, Urdu, and Vietnamese.

If you need copies, please contact your Child Nutrition representative.



CN Today Comments, Corrections and Submissions may be forwarded to:

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