



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Food and
Nutrition
Service

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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

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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.

Original Signed

Cynthia Long

Director

Child Nutrition Division

Attachment