USDA MEMOS: THE PROCESS & UPDATES AND REMINDERS

ASNA 2021 Spring Conference
Friday, April 16, 2021
# AGENDA

## ALSNA 2021 Spring Conference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 - 8:10</td>
<td>Welcome and Announcements</td>
<td>Robbie Scott, Education Specialist ALSD - CNP School Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:10 - 8:20</td>
<td>Introduction of Staff and Comments</td>
<td>Angeline Lowe, Director of Child Nutrition ALSD</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:20 - 8:30</td>
<td>Greetings from Dr. Payne</td>
<td>Dr. Brandon Payne, Assistant State Superintendent ALSD</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 - 8:45</td>
<td>Special Presentation</td>
<td>Rick Pate, Commissioner Alabama Department of Agriculture &amp; Industries</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45 - 9:45</td>
<td>Legal Obligations in Child Nutrition to Students with Disabilities</td>
<td>Julie J. Weatherly, Esq., Resolutions in Special Ed., Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45 - 10:30</td>
<td>USDA Memos: The Process Updates and Reminders</td>
<td>Chad Langston, Education Specialist ALSD - CNP School Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 - 11:45</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 - 12:00</td>
<td>Wrap Up and Q&amp;A</td>
<td>ALSD Staff</td>
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Legal Obligations in Child Nutrition to Students with Disabilities: Learn from Julie Weatherly on the legal obligations and implications for disability in child nutrition.

USDA Memos: The Process Updates and Reminders: Chad Langston will update attendees on recent reports and regulations in child nutrition.
USDA MEMOS
DATE: October 14, 2020

MEMO CODE: SP 01-2021, CACFP 01-2021, SFSP 01-2021

SUBJECT: Questions and Answers Relating to the Nationwide Waiver to Allow Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option Operations through School Year 2020-2021 – EXTENSION – Q&As #2

TO: Regional Directors
   Special Nutrition Programs
   All Regions
   State Directors
   Child Nutrition Programs
   All States

DATE: January 6, 2021

CODE: COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response # 71

SUBJECT: Nationwide Waiver of Food Service Management Contract Duration in the National School Lunch Program and Summer Food Service Program EXTENSION

TO: Regional Directors
   Special Nutrition Programs
   All Regions
   State Directors
   Child Nutrition Programs
   All States
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE (SERO)

- Memos distributed from NO to all FNS Regional Offices on the “DATE”
STATE AGENCY (ALSDE)

USDA REQUIRES SA TO DISTRIBUTE GUIDANCE WITHIN 30 DAYS OF RELEASE TO SPONSORS.
Partners

• Memos stored within the PartnerWeb database.
  • Memos normally available on PW within two days of release from NO.
INFORMATION BREAKDOWN

• USDA Press Release distributed on Monday, August 31

• NO memos released to FNS Regional Offices on Tuesday, September 1.

USDA Extends Free Meals for Kids Through December 31, 2020

Summer meal programs can continue operating as funding allows

(Washington, DC, August 31, 2020) – Today, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will extend several flexibilities through as late as December 31, 2020. The flexibilities allow summer meal program operators to continue serving free meals to all children into the fall months. This unprecedented move will help ensure – no matter what the situation is on-the-ground – children have access to nutritious food as the country recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. USDA has been and continues to be committed to using the Congressionally appropriated funding that has been made available.
UPDATES & REMINDERS
MEAL PATTERN FLEXIBILITIES

THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ENDED IN LATE DECEMBER AND THERE HAS BEEN NO UPDATE SINCE THAT TIME.

USDA Publishes Proposed Rule Maintaining School Meal Flexibilities

In line with USDA's unwavering promise to serve America's children well through school meal programs, the department today announced it will publish a proposed rule maintaining flexibility for schools to serve tasty meals their kids will be eager to eat. These proposed changes respond directly to the needs of nutrition professionals who are the experts on the ground, hearing from our children every day.

The proposed rule would maintain flexibility in USDA child nutrition program meal requirements related to milk, grains, and sodium, by:

- Allowing flavored, low-fat milk in the Child Nutrition Programs;
- Allowing half of the weekly grains offered through the school meal programs to be whole grain-rich; and
- Providing schools more time for gradual sodium reduction by retaining Sodium Target 1 through the end of SY 2023-2024, continuing to Target 2 in SY 2024-2025, and eliminating the Final Target.

Yesterday, USDA issued a separate rule as an administrative step to ensure the department's procedural compliance with a court ruling regarding its 2018 final rule on child nutrition program flexibilities. Today's rule proposes to restore the flexibilities included in the 2018 final rule. Despite this procedural formality, schools do not have to change their meals, thanks to the meal pattern flexibilities USDA has already provided in all child nutrition programs through June 30, 2021, in response to the COVID-19 national emergency.

The proposed rule announced today will publish in the Federal Register on Nov. 25th, followed by a 30-day public comment period. USDA is committed to listening to and collaborating with customers, partners, and stakeholders to make these reforms as effective as possible, and encourages all those who are interested in school meals to share their comments and recommendations for improvement through regulations.gov.

See Also:

- Notice of Vacatur: Issuance of Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Flexibilities (11/24/2020)
- Final Rule: Flexibilities for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Requirements (12/12/2018)
- Interim Final Rule: Flexibilities for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Requirements (11/30/2017)
NATIONWIDE WAIVERS

- Per SERO, these waivers have been extended through September 30, 2021
  - Emailed to all directors on March 9, 2021

- Child Nutrition Waiver Update - COVID-19 Child Nutrition Response # 73
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibilities for Summer 2021 Operations – EXTENSION 9 - COVID-19 CN Response # 74
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-Congregate Feeding for Summer 2021 Operations – EXTENSION 6 - COVID-19 CN Response # 75
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children for Summer 2021 Operations – EXTENSION 6 - COVID-19 CN Response # 76
- Nationwide Waiver to Extend Area Eligibility Waivers for Summer 2021 Operations – EXTENSION 4 - COVID-19 CN Response # 77
- Nationwide Waiver of Meal Service Time Restrictions for Summer 2021 Operations – EXTENSION 3 - COVID-19 CN Response # 78
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Offer Versus Serve Flexibilities in the SFSP for Summer 2021 Operations – EXTENSION 3 - COVID-19 CN Response 79
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites for Summer 2021 Operations – EXTENSION 3 - COVID-19 CN Response # 80
- Nationwide Waiver to Waive First Week Site Visits in the Summer Food Service Program for Summer 2021 Operations – EXTENSION 3 - COVID-19 CN Response # 81
COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION (CEP)

- SA pulling data on 4/1
- SFA CEP election extended to 9/30
- SA will complete LEA Notification 4/19 (tentative)
- Provision II may be an option to feed children at no charge
CNP DIRECTOR APPLICATION RENEWAL

• To check your Director Certificate expiration date
  • Go to https://tcert.alsde.edu/Portal/Public/Pages/SearchCerts.aspx
  • Enter your name (it isn’t necessary to enter information in all search fields)
  • Under “Teacher”, click on your name
  • Certificate Details will populate on the lower part of the computer screen

• Certificates that expire June 30, 2021 are not accepted in the annual Online Agreement for SY21-22.

• Renew now
  • DO NOT wait until June to renew.
  • Processing time is longer in June.
CNP CERTIFICATE RENEWAL (CONT.)

• Section IV must be completed
  • Attachments are not accepted

• 15 hours per year must be documented over the 5-year period
  • School Year – July 1st – June 30th

IV. Verification of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) earned through ALABAMA school systems:

CEUs earned and applied toward renewal shall be related to Child Nutrition education with consideration given to the sponsoring organization, the professional qualifications of the presenter, and the purposes, goals, and evaluation of the activity. A minimum of fifteen (15) clock hours of approved professional development per year is required for certificate renewal. The Alabama State Department of Education, Child Nutrition Programs office, will make the final decision on the approval of professional development activities. Child Nutrition Program formal workshops count toward the requirement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional Development Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Number of Clock Hours*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food Safety Certification</td>
<td>8/1/2016</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Directors’ Conference</td>
<td>11/1/2016</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Director’s Conference</td>
<td>3/1/2017</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Directors’ Conference</td>
<td>11/1/2017</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Director’s Conference</td>
<td>3/1/2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Directors’ Conference</td>
<td>11/12/2019 - 11/15/2019</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>Spring Director’s Conference</td>
<td>2/27/2020 - 2/20/2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Directors’ Conference</td>
<td>11/1/2020</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Director’s Conference</td>
<td>4/13/2021 - 4/16/2021</td>
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*10 clock hours = 1 CEU

Total Clock Hours: ____________
FOOD SAFETY CERTIFICATE

- Checked on initial new director application

- Checked prior to Administrative Reviews

- Course must be 8 hours
ONLINE APPLICATION/ANNUAL AGREEMENT

- Webinar upcoming dependent upon release of USDA school start up information.
FFVP GRANT

- Application emailed to all directors on March 31, 2021.
- Applications must be returned via email by April 30, 2021.
SFSP OUTREACH

• Per 7 CFR 210.12 & SP 07-2014

• SFA’s must provide information on the availability and location of summer meals to families of school children prior to the end of the school year.
WELLNESS POLICY TRIENNIAL ASSESSMENT

• DEADLINE

• the first triennial assessment must be completed by June 30, 2020 per SP 24-2017

• if approved for the Nationwide Waiver of Local School Wellness Policy Triennial Assessments in the NSLP and SBP (Child Nutrition Response #18), the completion deadline was extended to June 30, 2021
**SUMMER MANAGERS TRAINING**

**ALSDE CNP SUMMER MANAGERS’ VIRTUAL TRAINING**

Please ensure your managers have registered for this training. Additionally, because the training is virtual there should be room for assistant managers to register as well. Contact Lisa Rogers at ltr@olemiss.edu with questions.

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>JUNE</th>
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<tr>
<td>MAY 5</td>
<td>JUNE 14</td>
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<td>MAY 25</td>
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* Each 4 Hour Session will cover the topics shown below:

**Emergency Preparedness**
1 ½ hours  
Key Area: 3 (Administration)  
USDA Professional Standards Code: 3240, 3450

**Food Production and Operation Management**
2 hours  
Key Area: 2 (Operations)  
USDA Professional Standards Code: 2000

* Please encourage and assist your managers in getting registered as soon as possible.
NSLP/SSO MONITORING

- Per 210.8(1), on-site review shall take place prior to February 1 of each school year.
  - Can be completed off-site, if needed.
  - Must be completed by **June 30, 2021** for SY20-21.
  - Off-site Monitoring guidance emailed to all directors on November 18, 2020.
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED!

Log in codes for this Gardens 2 School Curriculum are available now on a first come, first serve basis. Please submit names, emails, school site, and grade taught for any K-5 teacher in your district who would like access to this great material. Information should be sent to: rscott@alsde.edu

SchoolYard Roots will distribute access codes directly to teachers via email.

Please assist us in making this valuable material available to teachers in your district. These resources that align with Alabama Course of Study objectives may be used for years to come.
NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

• Per FNS Instruction 113-1
  • Ensure full NDS is on all outgoing CNP material.
    • Exception – menus are not required to have NDS.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.
NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

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To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: How to File a Complaint, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
   Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
   1400 Independence Avenue, SW
   Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

2. fax: (202) 690-7442; or

3. email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.
QUESTIONS
EQUIPMENT GRANT AWARD RECIPIENTS

- Crenshaw County
  - Luverne High School
  - Highland Home High School
  - Brantley High School

- Geneva County
  - Sansom Elementary School

- Macon County
  - Tuskegee Public School
  - D.C. Wolfe School
  - Booker T. Washington High
  - George Washington Carver School
  - Tuskegee Institute Middle School

- Lanett City
  - Lanett High School

- Leeds City
  - Lanett Elementary School

- Roanoke City
  - Knight Enloe Elementary School
  - Handley High School
  - Handley Middle School

- Sheffield City
  - LE Wilson Elementary School
  - Sheffield High School

- Sylacauga City
  - Pinecrest Elementary School

- Thomasville City
  - Thomasville High School

- LEAD Academy

- Cornerstone
  - Cornerstone High School