

North Carolina

School Nutrition Weekly Update

November 21, 2014

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CONGRATULATIONS! Lynn and Reginald

We are very proud to share with you that our own Lynn Harvey and Reginald Ross were recently elected to offices with the School Nutrition Association. Lynn will begin her term as the Vice President and Reginald (Reggie) Ross the Southeast Regional Director beginning July 2015.

Both Lynn and Reginald are most deserving of these positions and will represent us very well. We challenge each of you to do your best to support them in their new leadership roles as they tirelessly advocate for you and school meals programs.

North Carolina is truly leading the nation in School Nutrition!

Memorandum of Agreement – National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

The Memorandum of Agreement – NAEP for the 2014-15 school year has been completed. The MOA is available on the School Nutrition website at the link below. We are working to schedule webinars to assist SFAs with clarification of the details of this particular MOA.

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD 2014-15 NAEP MOA](#)

Verification Update and Clarification

Verification Survey

Thank you to all of those who have completed the Verification survey that was released on Tuesday, November 18. The survey will close at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 24, 2014. Anyone who has not already completed this survey may do so at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YJTNMNB>

Verification Report

The online Verification Report (different from the Verification survey) was also opened to SFAs (in the School Nutrition Technology System) on Tuesday, November 18. All School Food Authorities (with the exception of Special Milk Programs) are encouraged to complete this report as soon as possible while the verification information/data is fresh on your minds. **NOTE: The deadline for completing this report has been extended to January 20, 2015.**

REMINDER - Terminated Benefits Households that Re-apply after Verification Process Deadline

Please remember that if a household was selected for verification and the benefits were terminated (i.e., free to paid, reduced to paid or did not respond), and, if the household chooses to re-apply for benefits (between November 18, 2014 and February 15, 2015), the SFA must keep a detailed record of this information. Also, keep in mind, to re-apply for school meal benefits the household must complete another application and provide current income documentation. **NOTE: This information will be collected from SFAs (via online survey) shortly after February 15, 2015 for the Ameliorative Report to USDA.**

Contact:

If you have any questions related to the verification process, please contact your regional consultant, Karla Wheeler (karla.wheeler@dpi.nc.gov) or Jacquelyn McGowan (jacquelyn.mcgowan@dpi.nc.gov).

Quarterly Financial Reports Clarification

Based on questions that we've received regarding the new Quarterly Financial Analysis report schedule, we realize there is some confusion about this new process. Just recently, following the Annual Conference, the decision was made to request that the **Traditional Public Schools** submit financial reports on a quarterly basis to NCDPI School Nutrition Services. PLEASE NOTE: This new process does not apply to or include Charter Schools, NonPublic Schools or Residential Child Care Institutions. Please review the [October 27-31 issue of the School Nutrition Weekly Update](#) for more details about the need for quarterly reports.

Click the document title to view/download:

- [Quarterly Financial Report Schedule](#)
- [Financial Analysis Worksheet](#)

Non-LEA Financial Reports

All other SFAs, which includes Charters schools, NonPublic Schools, and Residential Child Care Institutions are still on the twice a year schedule for submitting financial reports. The Semi-Annual report is due in March and the Annual Report is due in October. We will publish the exact due dates well in advance.

The School Nutrition Financial Team developed a Financial Report specifically for Non-LEAs. This Excel document along with guidance is available on the Financial Management page of the School Nutrition website. (Note: Scroll to the bottom of the page)

Financial Management Page

<http://childnutrition.ncpublicschools.gov/front-page/information-resources/financial-management>

Contact:

Tara Tyson (tara.tyson@dpi.nc.gov) or Janet Williams Johnson (janet.williamsjohnson@dpi.nc.gov).

Q&As – Smart Snacks Beverage Rules

QUESTION	ANSWER
<i>Are diet/non-calorie carbonated soft drinks OK to be sold in the cafeterias?</i>	Yes, only at the High School Level and by the School Nutrition Program. Diet carbonated soft drinks may not be sold via vending machines during the breakfast and lunch periods.
<i>If so, are they permitted to be sold in cafeterias in 20 oz bottles?</i>	If the beverages are non-calorie or less than or equal to 10 calories, they may be sold to HIGH SCHOOL students at a maximum of 20 ounces.

Can diet carbonated soft drinks be sold as “fountain drinks” in 12 oz cups?

Yes. We are not aware of a regulation that prohibits fountain drinks (as long as no refills are provided).

Golden Key Achievement Award

The Golden Key Achievement Award program is a new set of criteria designed to recognize the great accomplishments in a single school cafeteria. This award replaces the previous Awards for Excellence program with updated activities that complement current program regulations and best practices. The purpose of the award is to promote benchmarks of excellence across North Carolina and to honor School Nutrition programs that maintain high standards. Participation in this award fosters ongoing professional development and improvement in the school nutrition environment.

To compete for the Award, School Nutrition managers and employees will conduct activities in four (4) Key Areas:

1. Operations
2. Nutrition, Nutrition Education, and Physical Activity
3. Administration
4. Marketing and Communications

The Key Areas are consistent with the School Nutrition Association’s Key Areas of Excellence and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Professional Standards. Each activity requires specific documentation to show completion and must be included in the submission. The School Nutrition Administrator or other central office designee must approve the activities completed, sign the Awards, and submit to the State Agency. Once verified by the State Agency, the appropriate award will be provided to the participating school.

The **2014-15 Golden Key Achievement Award Guide for School Nutrition Managers and Staff** is available for download at: <http://childnutrition.ncpublicschools.gov/front-page/information-resources/awards-recognition-opportunities>

Contact:

Please contact Susan Thompson at susan.thompson@dpi.nc.gov if you have questions about the award.

What’s Cooking? USDA Mixing Bowl

This new interactive tool is designed to help consumers, school nutrition professionals, child care centers, and community leaders find nutritious and budget-friendly recipes. The website includes household recipes scaled for families as well as quantity recipes for schools and child care centers. More than 400 of the large quantity

recipes have been standardized by USDA and include information on how the recipe contributes toward the updated meal pattern requirements for school food service.

What's Cooking? USDA Mixing Bowl was developed in collaboration with the [Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion](#) (CNPP) and the [Food and Nutrition Service](#) (FNS) program areas and was initiated to create user-friendly and streamlined access to USDA recipes; and to meet the specific needs of nutrition assistance program participants and educators. This site fills a unique niche in the marketplace, featuring comprehensive search and sort capabilities; and is available in both English and Spanish.

What's Cooking? USDA Mixing Bowl includes:

- Advanced search filter options by specific USDA programs, course, cooking equipment and cuisine
- “Themed” nutrition focus searching in areas specific to food groups and nutrients
- Nutrition information for many recipes, including detailed nutrient and MyPlate food group amounts
- Access to the [USDA Foods Fact Sheets](#) and corresponding recipes
- [Quantity recipes](#) for USDA programs or to feed larger crowds
- The ability to share recipes on social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) and provide star ratings, comments, or tips for other users
- Option to select recipes to create a personal cookbook to print or download

Visit the site today at <http://www.whatscooking.fns.usda.gov/>! Get started with the helpful [Holiday Harvest of Recipes](#) featured on the homepage.

Smart Options - Teach the Leader

This workshop will offer the information and resources required for teaching *Smart Options: School Meals Make a Difference in NC*, an approved School Nutrition Association (SNA) certification course on January 27, 2015 in Greensboro, NC. Registration details will be coming soon.

Smart Options, from the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, School Nutrition Services, is a continuing education course tailored for school nutrition professionals in North Carolina that covers nutrition and physical activity guidelines, school nutrition regulations, methods for serving quality school meals, strategies for linking the cafeteria to the classroom with nutrition education, ways to market school meals, and school wellness. *Smart Options* was developed with assistance and review from an advisory committee of school nutrition administrators from across North Carolina. The curriculum is tailored to our state and features local school success stories.

What's New on the Web?

2014 Seamless Summer Option Program Site Listing

<http://childnutrition.ncpublicschools.gov/programs/summer-nutrition-opportunities/seamless-summer-option-sso-program>

Summer Food Service Program Site Listing <http://childnutrition.ncpublicschools.gov/programs/summer-nutrition-opportunities/summer-food-service-program-sfsp>

What's In Your Financial Management Toolbox? Powerpoint

<http://childnutrition.ncpublicschools.gov/continuing-education/conference/2014-annual-conference-for-child-nutrition-administrators/2014-annual-conference-breakout-session-pages/whats-in-your-financial-mgmt-toolbox>

Verification Corrective Action Plan Template

<http://childnutrition.ncpublicschools.gov/front-page/information-resources/verification>

Memorandum of Agreement - NAEP

<http://childnutrition.ncpublicschools.gov/information-resources/memoranda-of-agreement-student-confidentiality/memoranda-%20of-agreement-student-confidentiality>

Golden Key Achievement Award

<http://childnutrition.ncpublicschools.gov/front-page/information-resources/awards-recognition-opportunities>

Important Dates

November 27-28 Thanksgiving Holidays (State offices closed)
December 10 (Wednesday) Deadline for Submitting Claim for Reimbursement (for November 2014)
December 15 Deadline to Complete Civil Rights Checklist and File at SFA
December 15 (Monday) Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Claim for Reimbursement Deadline (for November 2014)
December 15 Nutrient Analysis for October Menus Due (Exception: SFAs with AR prior to Dec 31st)
December 24, 25 & 26 Christmas Holidays (State offices closed)

2015

January 1, 2015 New Year's Day (State offices closed)
January 10 (Saturday) Deadline for Submitting Claim for Reimbursement (for December 2014)
January 15 Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Claim for Reimbursement Deadline (for December 2014)

January 19 Martin Luther King Birthday (State offices closed)

January 20 Deadline for Completion of Verification Report in School Nutrition Technology System

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If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.htm), found at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.htm or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish).

"The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

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