

North Carolina

School Nutrition Weekly Update

March 10, 2015

Issue No. 2015.3-2

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March Nutrition Analysis Reports

March nutrition analysis reports are due by April 15, 2015 to your regional Nutrition Specialist.

NOTE to Regions 5 and 6 only for March 2015 analysis reports: SFA's should send these reports to their regional School Nutrition Operations and Management Consultant. Charter schools should send these reports to their regional School Nutrition Charter School Consultant. The analysis reports will be forwarded to a Nutrition Specialist.

Remember, there are new procedures for the twice yearly analysis reports (starting with the 2014-15 School Year). A menu analysis of all four weeks of menus during the months of March and October is no longer required.

Instructions

[CLICK HERE](#) to review/print the instructions for the Twice Yearly Nutrient Analysis, which were issued at the Policy Update.

Please submit analyses of one week of planned menus during the month of March for each meal pattern grade group used in the SFA for both breakfast and lunch. In addition, submit the Meal Component and Quantity Worksheets (MCQW) for the same week for each meal pattern grade group. If your software provides an approved version of the six cent certification document, this can be submitted in lieu of the MCQW's.

Meal Component and Quantities Worksheets

NOTE: The newly revised Meal Component and Quantities Worksheets are now posted on the School Nutrition website. [CLICK HERE](#) to view/download the worksheets.

If you have any questions, please contact your regional Nutrition Specialist.

Waiver Request Process for Exemptions from the Whole Grain-Rich Requirements

As you know, the USDA recently authorized State Education Agencies to approve waiver requests that allow SFAs to have flexibility in the use of whole grain-rich products. USDA Policy Memorandum SP 20-2015 is attached for your review.

USDA has just notified the department that our waiver review/approval process has been approved. We have attempted to make this process as easy for you as possible. Please read the [Whole Grain Rich Waiver letter](#) that provides specific instructions for successfully completing the process. You will be required to submit the [WGR Waiver Request Form](#) along with supporting documentation to justify your waiver request.

Should you have questions, please contact your Regional Consultant or Nutrition Specialist.

We look forward to working with you to help you achieve the goals of your School Nutrition Program, the heart of which is to offer nutritious, affordable, appealing meals to students.

NC's FF&VP Application Season Opened February 27...So, What's New for the Process?

How does CEP affect eligibility for the FF&VP for SY 2015-2016?

It is still a requirement for an elementary school to be 50% or greater Free/Reduced to apply and be selected to participate in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FF&VP). ****IMPORTANT NOTE**** CEP schools will qualify on the individual school's Identified Student Percentage (ISP), not the group's ISP percentage. An elementary school must have an individual ISP of at least 50.0% to apply for the FF&VP.

As in the past, in the School Nutrition Technology System (SNTS)/FF&VP Application Packet component provides a list of eligible elementary schools. The SNTS displays the list of elementary schools that were 50.0% or greater Free/Reduced or ISP based on the October 2014 claim data. The SFA may apply for any or all sites listed.

What are the Important Dates?

Friday, February 27, 2015

Opening day for North Carolina's FF&VP application season in the SNTS. School Nutrition Administrators with "Application Entry" rights to the SNTS have access to the FF&VP Application Packet to view their respective elementary schools eligible to apply for the FF&VP for SY 2015-2016.

The annual FF&VP application packet complete with information, required forms, [timeline](#) and [checklist](#) was electronically distributed to School Nutrition Administrators

Friday, March 27, 2015 at 11:59 PM

Deadline for completing and saving a SY 2015-2016 FF&VP application (online) in the SNTS for the eligible elementary schools that wish to apply.

Monday, April 6, 2015 by 5:00 PM

Deadline for the [FF&VP Signature Page](#) with original, required signatures in **blue** ink to be received in the NCDPI School Nutrition Services Section in Raleigh.

*****New Form for the FF&VP Application Process for SY 2015-2016*****

Monday, April 6, 2015 by 5:00 PM

Deadline for the new FF&VP form: "[Number of Days FF&VP Operates Weekly](#)" to be completed with original required signature in **blue** ink and received in the NCDPI School Nutrition Services Section in Raleigh. One form listing all the applying schools per LEA is acceptable. This new form was included in the electronically distributed FF&VP application packet for SY 2015-2016.

FFVP Continuing Education Webinars

Please note the revised dates for the FF&VP required annual continuing education webinars:

Monday, June 29, 2015, 10-11AM *FF&V Program Requirements*

Tuesday, June 30, 2015, 10-11AM *FF&VP Financial Guidance*

Anyone is invited to participate in either webinar. Registration is required. ***IMPORTANT NOTE*** FF&VP webinar registration information will be included in the FF&VP selection notification letter from the NCDPI School Nutrition Services Section mailed to School Food Authorities in early June 2015.

Please contact Zoe McKay-Tucker, School Nutrition Specialist at zoe.mckaytucker@dpi.nc.gov or 919-807-3517, if you have questions or need additional assistance.

USDA Policy Memoranda

The following USDA Policy Memos were recently released:

[SP 24-2015](#) Community Eligibility Provision: Annual Notification and Publication Requirements
[SP 24-2015a](#) Templates - Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Annual Notification of Schools and Annual Notification of Local Educational Agencies (LEA)

Apply for School Grants for Healthy Kids

Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK) has opened the call for applications for School Grants for Healthy Kids for the 2015-2016 school year. Breakfast Grants and Every Kid Healthy Grants (supporting physical activity and nutrition programming) are available. Apply for one or both by **May 1, 2015**.

Eligible schools may apply for funding to pilot or expand their School Breakfast Programs, pilot universal school breakfast, and/or support physical activity and nutrition initiatives working towards healthy-school certification.

In addition to funding, your school will receive technical support, gain access to AFHK's improved grants portal, and ensure your students are healthy and ready to learn. Learn more when you register for a School Grants Webinar at: <http://www2.actionforhealthykids.org/e/21152/events-webinars/wjbsz/162613247>

Q&A – Kona Ice

QUESTION How does the product “Kona Ice” fit into nutrition standards?

ANSWER “--the Kona Ice product is not juice. It is flavored ice. Therefore, it is not a frozen fruit product and Q and A 9, page 4 is (Smart Snack Rule [SP 23-2014](#)) not applicable. However, ice is a food, as defined by the Food and Drug Administration, and, therefore, the Kona Ice product may be evaluated as a food product for the purposes of Smart Snacks compliance. This product only meets the Smart Snacks criteria on the basis of its meeting the 10% Daily Value provision of the regulation. As indicated in the regulation at §210.11(c)(2)(v), this criteria qualifies this product as an allowable food for sale under the Smart Snacks requirements only through June 30,2016. After that date, the Daily Value criterion becomes obsolete. Additionally, this product, as currently formulated, cannot be evaluated against the beverage standards because it is not a beverage. It is important to note that the State agency operating the Child Nutrition Programs can set local standards that are more restrictive than those that are defined by the federal Smart Snacks in School interim final rule. For example, if the State wants to prohibit the sale of a food that meets the Smart Snack standards because of the percent daily value provision, they could.”

So in summary:

- Because ice is a food, flavored ice is in compliance with Smart Snacks criteria by meeting the 10% DV.
- It is an allowable food for sale only through June 30, 2016.
- The rules that allow for its sale will be obsolete by July 1, 2016.
- The product as formulated cannot be evaluated as meeting the beverage standards.

Source: *Harvey, Lynn. “Kona Ice Product and Smart Snacks compliance”. Message to School Nutrition Staff. 06 Mar. 2015. Email.*

Vacancy Announcement – Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.....

School District: **Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools**

Position: **Area Child Nutrition Supervisor**

Please review the [vacancy announcement](#) for details about the position and application instructions.

Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Day.....

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics will celebrate Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Day on Wednesday, March 11. Registered dietitian nutritionists are committed to improving the health of their clients and community. Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Day commemorates the dedication of RDNs as advocates for advancing the nutritional status of Americans and people around the world. Recognize the RDNs you know and work with on March 11. Website: www.nationalnutritionmonth.org/nnm

Sweet Potato Month Contest Entry Forms Deadline.....

Schools across the state celebrated Sweet Potato Month in February. Submit your Sweet Potato Month promotion activities for the contest sponsored by the NC Sweet Potato Commission. All entries are due by 5:00 pm. on Friday, March 13. To find resources or more info about the contest and access the contest entry form, visit www.ncfarmtoschool.com and www.ncsweetpotatoes.com.

Continuing Education Opportunity Schedule.....

**NOTE* Click each title to view/download information and instructions.*

Webinars

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|----------|--|
| March 11 | Getting Your Wellness Policy Ahead of the Curve |
| March 18 | *NEW* 2015-16 School Breakfast Grant Opportunities Webinar |
| March 24 | *NEW* Every Kid Healthy Grant Opportunities Webinar |
| March 25 | *NEW* School Breakfast: Resources to Increase Participation Webinar |
| March 26 | Norovirus: Control Strategies and How to Handle a School-based Outbreak |

Workshops

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|-------------|--|---|
| March 16-18 | <u>N.C. Safe Plates</u> | Person County |
| March 19 | *NEW* <u>Team Up for School Health and Wellness</u> | Smoky Mountain HS, Sylva, NC |
| March 23-25 | <u>N.C. Safe Plates</u> | Stokes County |
| March 25 | <u>Procuring Local Produce</u> | Carthage, NC |
| April 6-8 | <u>N.C. Safe Plates</u> | Montgomery County |
| April 13 | <u>Procuring Local Produce</u> | Greensboro, NC |
| April 17 | <u>Procuring Local Produce</u> | Concord, NC |
| June 22-23 | <u>N.C. Safe Plates</u> | Greensboro, NC (SNA-NC Annual Conference) |

Reminder Articles from SNWU – March 4.....

Please be sure to review the following articles at: <http://childnutrition.ncpublicschools.gov/news-events/sn-weekly-updates/snwu-2015/snwu-mar-4-2015>

- **USDA Releases Professional Standards Final Rule and Grant Opportunity to Support the Rule**
- ****REMINDER** Equipment Assistance Grant Applications/Proposals Due March 10, 2015**
- ****IMPORTANT NOTICE** Region 6 Policy Update Rescheduled – Monday, March 30**
- **2015 NC Child Hunger Leaders Conference Rescheduled – Wednesday, March 18**
- **Golden Key Achievement Award**

Important Dates.....

March

March National Nutrition Month
 March 11 Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Day
 March 13 Sweet Potato Month Contest Entry Forms Deadline
 March 15 (Sunday) Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Claim for Reimbursement Deadline (for February 2015)
 March 16 Region 5 Spring Policy Update for Charters and RCCIs
 March 18 2015 NC Child Hunger Leaders Conference

March 19 Region 7 Spring Policy Update
 March 20 Region 2 Spring Policy Update
 March 20 Region 3 Spring Policy Update for Traditional Public Schools
 March 20 Region 5 Spring Policy Update for Traditional Public Schools
 March 26 Region 8 Spring Policy Update
 March 30 Deadline for submitting USDA Best Practice Awards Nominations
 March 30 Region 6 Policy Update
 March 31 Region 4 Spring Policy Update

April

April 1 Deadline for Completing Self-Assessments for RCCI/Charter/Non-Public SFAs (File at SFA)
 April 3 Good Friday (State Offices Closed)
 April 10 (Friday) Deadline for Submitting Claim for Reimbursement (for March 2015)
 April 15 (Wednesday) Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Claim for Reimbursement Deadline (for March 2015)
 April 15 March Nutrient Analysis Reports Due (Submit to Regional Nutrition Specialist)
 April 19-25 Every Kid Healthy Week
 April 30 3rd Quarterly Financial Analysis Worksheet Due (for Traditional Public School SFAs only)

May

May 4-8 National School Nutrition Employee Week
 May 10 (Sunday) Deadline for Submitting Claim for Reimbursement (for April 2015)
 May 15 (Friday) Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Claim for Reimbursement Deadline (for April 2015)

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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).

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