

North Carolina

School Nutrition Weekly Update

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REMINDER: Agreement Renewal Due Date

June 8, 2015 - Deadline for all SFAs to complete **all parts of the Agreement Renewal (F&RP Application, Online Renewal Application, and Written Agreement)** and all hard copy documents must be received in the state agency office. **KEEP IN MIND:** June 8 falls on a Monday. Please plan accordingly to insure your required documents are received in the State Agency office by close of business on that day.

Have Questions?

If you have questions or need assistance please contact your regional consultant.

Clarifying “Submission” Regarding Processing F&R School Meals Household Applications

Due to recent inquiries about the meaning of "submission" relative to the Free and Reduced Price School Meal Household Application, the State Agency contacted USDA for the following statement of clarification:

The submission date is the date a School Official receives the Free and Reduced Price School Meals Household Application.

Additionally, USDA also requires Free and Reduced Price School Meals Household Applications to be processed within 10 days of receipt. (See page 28 of the [Eligibility Guidance Manual](#)) Therefore, it is the responsibility of the School Food Authority to incorporate a policy for noting the submission date of the Free and Reduced Price School Meals Household Application and at the same time adhere to the 10 day processing requirement.

There are multiple processes used throughout the State and there is probably no way that all can be addressed in this letter. The bottom line is there must be a clear date of submission, either by using a date stamp or having the recipient to date and sign the application. The date the parent signs the application is **not** an indicator of submission. The only way a Free and Reduced Price School Meal Household Application may be reprocessed is within the 10 day window of processing the application.

For additional guidance, please refer to [Policy Memo SP 11-2014; \(CACFP 06-2014; SFSP 11-2014\)](#), *Effective Date of Free and Reduced Price Meal Eligibility Determinations*. In addition to keep everyone current with the Direct Certification effective date of eligibility, please refer to [Policy Memo SP 51-2014](#), *Eligibility Effective Date for Directly Certified Students*.

Should you have questions pertaining to the submission date of Free and Reduced Price School Meals Household Applications and Reprocessing of Directly Certified Students, please contact your regional consultant.

Smart Lunch Data

The School Nutrition Services section is in the process of collecting data about the Smart Lunch or Power Lunch practices around the State. Smart Lunch or Power Lunch allows all students in a high school to have 1 hour for lunch, for all supplemental educational activities, for all extracurricular activities and for other activities. To collect the information needed to address the impact of Smart Lunch or Power Lunch on the School Nutrition Programs, we need your help. If your SFA has implemented Smart Lunch in any of the high schools, please expect further communication requesting school by school data within the week.

USDA Policy Memoranda

SP 37-2015 2015 Edition of Questions and Answers for the National School Lunch Program’s Seamless Summer Option

If you have any questions regarding this policy memo, please contact Cynthia Ervin at cynthia.ervin@dpi.nc.gov.

Continuing Education Information

► Workshop – The Administrative Review Process: An Approach to Collaborative Compliance Workshop

CLICK HERE for more information and details.

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, School Nutrition Services Section will offer The Administrative Review Process: An Approach to Collaborative Compliance workshop on **June 22-23, 2015** at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, NC.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVE

The workshop will provide important information about the United States Department of Agriculture Administrative Review. Feedback from past participants indicates that this session provided valuable opportunities to learn more about collaborative participation in a successful review. Please invite members of your School Nutrition team who perform the duties associated with program operations related to the Administrative Review to join you at the workshop.

If you have questions after you have submitted your registration, please contact Iyana at importer@ncsu.edu or (919) 515-8185. If you have general questions about the workshop, please contact Susan Thompson at susan.thompson@dpi.nc.gov.

We look forward to seeing you in Greensboro for this important professional development opportunity!

► ***Need CEUs for Professional Standards?***

Remember to regularly check our Continuing Education page on the website to stay abreast of important opportunities to meet the new USDA Professional Standards requirements that take effect July 1, 2015.

► ***Miss one of the Food Safety Webinars?***

The NCSU food safety team has partnered with School Nutrition Services to deliver monthly webinars. If you missed one of them and would like to view, go to: <https://collaborate.wolfware.ncsu.edu/recordings/> and type *HACCP* in the instant search box. Select the webinar of your choice and view or download the MP4 format.

We do not have the capacity to issue continuing education certificates for post-webinar viewing at this time; however, the videos are provided to provide information for you and your staff.

You may also access fact sheets on a variety of topics at foodsafetyinfosheets.org

► ***Continuing Education Q & A***

Question

Is School Nutrition Association Certification the same as USDA Professional Standards?

Answer

No; however, some of the requirements are similar.

Certification is a *voluntary process* through the School Nutrition Association (SNA). You can find information about certification at: <https://schoolnutrition.org/certificate/Earn-SNA-Certificate/>

Meeting the USDA Professional Standards Final Rule is *required* and verifying compliance will become a part of the Administrative Review. SNA is re-organizing their key areas to better align with the USDA learning topics to minimize confusion and many of the same continuing education activities could count for both Professional Standards (PS) and SNA Certification. For both PS and SNA Certification, each contact hour of instruction counts as one (1) continuing education unit (CEU). One of the biggest differences is that SNA will no longer allow any CEUs that are less than 1 hour to be used for certification while USDA will allow instructional time as little as 15 minute increments (or 1/4 hour CEU) to count towards Professional Standards.

► ***Continuing Education Schedule***

Webinars

Date	Time	Title	Host/Webinar Provider
June 10	1:00pm – 2:00pm	CEP: Successful Implementation Strategies	(FRAC) Food Research and Action Center
June 11	2:00pm – 3:00pm	Food Temperatures: Cook and Hold Safely	NCSU Cooperative Extension

Workshops

Date	Workshop Title	Location	Host/Workshop Provider
June 22-23	The Administrative Review Process: An Approach to Collaborative Compliance	Koury Convention Center, Greensboro, NC (SNA-NC Annual Conference)	State Agency – NCDPI School Nutrition Staff
June 22-24	N.C. Safe Plates	Koury Convention Center Greensboro, NC (SNA-NC Annual Conference)	NCSU Cooperative Extension
June 23	Smart Options: Teach the Leader	Hampton Inn, Greensboro Airport	State Agency – NCDPI School Nutrition Staff

Important School Nutrition Dates

June

- June 8 Deadline to have completed written agreement, online renewal application and required documents submitted to State Agency
- June 10 (Sunday) Deadline for Submitting Claim for Reimbursement (for May 2015)
- June 11 WEBINAR: [Food Temperatures: Cook and Hold Safely](#)
- June 15 (Friday) Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Claim for Reimbursement Deadline (for May 2015)
- June 22-23 WORKSHOP: [The Administrative Review Process](#)
- June 22-24 WORKSHOP: [N.C. Safe Plates](#)
- June 23 WORKSHOP: [Smart Options: Teach the Leader](#)
- June 24-25 [School Nutrition Association of NC State Conference](#)
- June 29 Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program (Part 1) Webinar
- June 30 Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program (Part 2) Webinar

July

July 10 (Friday) Deadline for Submitting Claim for Reimbursement (for June 2015)

July 12-15 [School Nutrition Association Annual National Conference](#)

August

August 10 (Monday) Deadline for Submitting Claim for Reimbursement (for June 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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