



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

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SUBJECT: Team Up for School Nutrition Success Initiative

TO: Regional Directors  
Special Nutrition Programs  
All Regions

State Directors  
Child Nutrition Programs  
All States

This memorandum provides important information regarding the Team Up For School Nutrition Success that will be piloted with the states in the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Southeast Region. The goal of this initiative is to provide school food authorities (SFAs) with more tailored technical assistance in implementing the school meal patterns.

**About the Initiative**

As schools continue to move forward with implementation of new and innovative healthy school meals, there is a need for formalizing a model of sharing best practices across the country. By providing a unique learning experience and resources in both training and peer-to-peer mentorship, schools will have the opportunity to make positive strides in providing healthy school environments with financial stability and strong student meal program participation.

The National Food Service Management Institute (NFSMI) will pilot the Team Up For School Nutrition Success initiative. Through this initiative, SFAs identified by State agencies for the pilot will participate in an expense-paid, tailored training workshop and then enter into a peer-to-peer mentoring program designed to address SFAs individual needs and resources. The pilot will be conducted with approximately 48 SFAs, starting in November 2014. NFSMI will also conduct a 3, 6, and 12-month follow up with those SFAs to see what progress has been made and if there is need for additional training. The result of the pilot and the outcomes from the participating SFAs in the Southeast Region will help to inform future efforts so the initiative may then be rolled out more widely.

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### **Our Plans**

FNS Regional Offices will continue to implement plans for assisting States in ensuring that all SFAs have ready access to the help they need to successfully implement the new meal pattern requirements and Smart Snack standards. To support the plan, the Department of Agriculture will also collaborate with allied organizations and partners to implement the Team Up For School Nutrition Success. As always, we will continue to work with the Regions and States and keep you updated on our plans, as we value our continued collaboration.

State agencies should direct any questions concerning this guidance to the appropriate FNS Regional Office.



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