



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

Nutrition Services

# Food for Thought

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## From the chair of the Director.....

After over 11 years administering the CACFP and SFSP at in Georgia, I am retiring as Director of Nutrition Services of Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning effective Wednesday, May 1, 2013. My last full work day in the office was Friday, April 26, 2013.



The CACFP and SFSP have experienced significant changes and improvements in the past 11 years. In 2002, only 200 CACFP participants, less than 25%, did online claiming or turned in an online CACFP application. The remaining 75% percent completed all this on separate documents and turned this all in to this agency sometimes having to duplicate some of the same information on 10 or more different documents. We had no capabilities for online training registration, training delivery, and training evaluation, which meant that mandatory USDA annual CACFP training required Center Directors and Program Contracts to be away from their programs for more than a day to attended annual training events throughout the state.

Most importantly, I express my sincere appreciation to all of you who have directly or indirectly helped serve millions of nutritious meals and snacks every day to the children and adult beneficiaries of the CACFP and the SFSP throughout Georgia. I salute you and thank you.

Sincerely,  
Lou Brienza, Director

The Nutrition Services Division bids a congratulatory farewell to Nutrition Director, Louis Brienza, Nutrition Accountant, Teresa Todd and Nutrition Program Consultant, Wanda Simpkins. Congratulations on your retirements. We thank you for your hard work, dedication, and support throughout your tenure here at Bright from the Start and we wish you the very best in your future endeavors. ~ Nutrition Services Staff



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## Nutrition Services Gearing Up for Summer Food Service & Looking for Eligible Sponsors

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides free meals to eligible children in low-income areas during the summer months when students are out of school where they would normally receive breakfast and/or lunch.

Bright from the Start is seeking eligible sponsors to provide summer meals to children through the SFSP. The following can qualify as sponsors: public or private nonprofit schools; universities, colleges, or camps; units of local government; faith-based organizations; and private nonprofit organizations considered tax exempt by the IRS. Sponsors can feed children at sites such as schools, churches, recreation cen-

ters, community and migrant centers, child care centers, and other local community areas where children congregate and play. Sponsors are reimbursed according to federal guidelines for the meals they serve. They can prepare and serve meals themselves or contract with a food vendor to prepare meals.

Visit [www.decal.ga.gov](http://www.decal.ga.gov) for eligibility information or contact Nutrition Services @ 404-657-1779 to register for the two-day training for New Sponsors and the one-day training for Experienced Sponsors.

## Inside this issue:

CACFP Updates	2
SFSP Policy Updates	3
Summer Food	3
Fresh Baby	4
Strawberry Banana Parfait	4
Contact Information	4

## CACFP Updates



### Memo: Income Eligibility Determinations and Duration.

Issue Date: August 2012

Income eligibility forms should be considered current and valid until the last day of the month in which the form was dated a year earlier. Requesting that parents/guardians complete Income Eligibility Statements at a set frequency regardless of when the form was previously completed and submitted is prohibited. This update applies to Child Care Centers and Family Day Care

Homes and should be used to assess the expiration of an IES form in all situations regardless of the reimbursement calculation method used.

Approval for free or reduced price or tier I benefits is valid for a period not to exceed 12 months, regardless of any change in household income.

### Change in Income

Households are NOT required to report changes in circumstances (i.e., increase in income, decrease in household size, or discontinuation of benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP] or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [TANF]).

### Elimination of Temporary Approval

Households that were temporarily approved on November 28, 2011 or have been approved since this date must be approved for an entire year.

If the temporary approval expired before November 28, 2011, the household must submit a new IES form.

## Policy Updates

### Memo: Child Nutrition Reauthorization 2010: Categorical Eligibility of Children in Foster Care

Issue Date: April 16, 2013

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA) authorized categorical eligibility for foster children in Section 9(b)(12)(A) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (NSLA) and defined a foster child as "a foster child whose care and placement is the responsibility of an agency that administers a State plan under part B or E of Title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 621 *et seq.*); or a foster child who a court has placed with a caretaker household."

- Provisions only apply to children formally placed in foster care by a State child welfare agency or a court.
- They do not apply to informal arrangements such as caretaker arrangements or permanent guardianship placements that may exist outside of or as a result of State or court based systems.
- Whether placed by the State child welfare agency or a court, in order for a child to be considered categorically eligible for free meals, the State must retain legal custody of the child.
- If the State relinquishes custody of a child, the child is no longer considered to be in foster care and categorical eligibility no longer applies.

### Memo: Variation in Meal Requirements for Religious Reasons: Jewish Schools, Institutions, and Sponsors.

Issue Date: April 2, 2013

Clarifies allowable variations to Child Nutrition Program Food Components to meet religious needs among Jewish schools, institutions, and sponsors.

- The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) may approve the variations of food components of meals served in the child nutrition programs on an experimental or on a continuing basis where there is evidence that such variations are nutritionally sound and are necessary to meet ethnic, religious, economic, or physical needs.
- The instructions pertain to meals served in Jewish facilities participating in National School Lunch, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program.
- During the religious observance of Passover, Jewish facilities may be exempted from the enrichment and whole grain portions of the Child Nutrition Program grain requirements. Enriched matzo may be substituted for the grain requirement during that period of time only.



# SFSP Policy Updates

**Memo: "Demonstration Project for Non-Congregate Feeding for Outdoor Summer Feeding Sites Experiencing Excessive Heat"**

Issue Date: March 8, 2013

Non-congregate meal service shall be permitted only on days when the National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a Heat Advisory, an Excessive Heat Warning, or an Excessive Heat Watch for the area in which an approved outdoor feeding site is located.

**Memo: "Determining Area Eligibility Based on School Data"**

Issue Date: November 23, 2012

- Provides guidance on how to determine area eligibility when children reside outside of the school zone but are bused to the school zone to achieve racial/economic diversity in schools.
- Memo supersedes previous memo "Busing on Area Eligibility" dated December 6, 2010.
- For school sites, Sponsors may rely on the school data for the NSLP for the individual school where the site is located, or
- For school or non-school sites, Sponsors may use NSLP free/reduced price meal data for the school where students attend or would have

attended if not bused.

**Memo: "Tribal Participation in the CACFP and SFSP"**

Issue Date: July 24, 2012

- Clarifies previous guidance regarding eligibility requirements for Tribes participating in CACFP and SFSP.
- Tribes are recognized as "public entities" or "local governments" and eligible to participate in SFSP when they meet:
- Local licensing or approval requirements
- Sites meet eligibility requirements
- Meals/snacks served meet SFSP meal pattern requirements

**Memo: "Smoothies Offered in Child Nutrition Programs"**

Issue Date: July 11, 2012

- Memo provides guidance on crediting fruit smoothies in Child Nutrition Programs.
- Milk and fruit can be credited in smoothies prepared by SFSP sponsors/ CACFP institutions to meet meal pattern requirements for any meal served under Child Nutrition Programs.

- Vegetables cannot be credited as a smoothie.

- Grains and meat/meat alternates (including yogurt) may not be credited when served as a beverage.

- Commercially prepared smoothies may only be credited as the fruit component.

**Memo: "Approved Sponsors Participating in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)"**

Issue Date: April 12, 2013

Bright from the Start will restrict the number of meals that sponsors can serve per day at one or more sites if it is determined that:

- The site is in violation of approved SFSP meal service time frames per 7 CFR Part 225.16 (c),
- When required corrective action is not taken by the deadline date,
- More than 20% of the sponsor's sites are determined to be in violation of the approved time requirements.

## Parent Resource for Summer Food Service Locations

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and administered in Georgia by Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning.

The Summer Food Service Program:

- Provides free meals and snacks to children 18 years or younger, or adults 19 years or older who are enrolled in an education facility and receiving meals during the school year.
- Nutritious meals/snacks are served to children at summer camps, upward bound programs, churches, schools, universities, and park and recreation centers.

Families in Georgia can find free summer meals by:

- Visiting Bright from the Start's website at [www.decal.ga.gov/Nutrition/Search.aspx](http://www.decal.ga.gov/Nutrition/Search.aspx)
- Contacting United Way at 211
- Call toll free at (855)550-SFSP (7377)
- Text FOODGA to 877-877

For more information about Bright from the Start or the Summer Food Service Program, contact Nutrition Services at 404.657.1779.



Strawberry Banana Parfait**Description:**

Whether you are looking for a fruit-filled breakfast option or a better-for-you dessert, enjoy the flavors of layered seasonal fruit, crisp flakes, and creamy yogurt in this delicious parfait.

**Ingredients:**

½ medium ripe banana, mashed  
⅛ teaspoon vanilla  
½ cup plain non-fat yogurt  
½ cup sliced fresh strawberries  
½ cup complete bran and wheat flakes ready-to-eat cereal

**Directions:**

1. Stir banana and vanilla into yogurt
2. In one 10-12 ounce glass, alternately layer the yogurt mixture, strawberries, and cereal. Serve immediately.

**Serving Suggestion:** serve with whole wheat toast, graham crackers, or animal crackers.

**Nutrition on the Move...**

Bright from the Start Nutrition Services Division welcomes the following new staff members: Nutrition Application Specialists, Paula Lawrence and Demetria Thornton; Nutrition Program Manager, Jennifer Popadiuk; and Nutrition Program Consultants, Aleshia Golden and Robyn Parham.

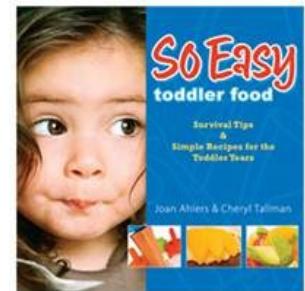
**Fresh Baby**

For more than 10 years, Fresh Baby has helped parents foster their children's healthy eating habits and proactively respond to the childhood obesity epidemic that plagues our nation.

A National Strategic Partner with the USDA, Fresh Baby's nutrition education products and publications offer solutions to support many stages of family life including: pregnancy, breastfeeding, introducing solid foods, and feeding toddlers, preschoolers & school-aged children. The products support people in critical areas where food choices are made – including food shopping, meal preparation, and meal time.

For more information visit: [www.freshbaby.com](http://www.freshbaby.com)

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**Nutrition Services Contact Information: We are here to serve you!**

(email address = *Firstname.Lastname@decal.ga.gov*)

*Contact us!* 

Name	Title	Number	Demetria Thornton	Application Specialist	404-463-2182
Leslie Truman	Program Administrative Assistant	404-657-1779	Jennifer Popadiuk	Nutrition Program Manager	404-656-6292
Maria Reznik	Policy Administrator	404-651-7181	Luetricia Billingsley	Nutrition Consultant	770-359-5806
Falita Flowers	Program Manager (Training/Applications)	404-656-6452	Megan Hemans-Reese	Program Administrator (Supervisor)	404-651-7192
Christy McCray	Program Coordinator	404-651-7191	Sherrie Tuten	Nutrition Consultant	229-584-1289
Geneise Graham	Application Specialist	404-656-6411	Danna Foster	Nutrition Consultant	770-359-5809
Takisha Aragoness	Business Operations Specialist	404-463-1494	Sonja Adams	Program Administrator	404-651-8193
Angelica Flucas	Business Operations Specialist	770-651-7426	Sonya James	Nutrition Consultant	770-357-7012
Marissa Hamm	Program Manager (Reviews/Nutrition Ed)	404-651-7433	Bridgette Merritt	Nutrition Consultant	770-357-7062
Taquella Austin	Nutrition Training Coordinator	404-463-2317	Valerie Coulton	Nutrition Consultant	770-357-4927
Paula Lawrence	Application Specialist	404-463-2111	Tabitha Moreland	Nutrition Consultant	478-599-9801
			Aneshia Harris	Grants Administrator	404-656-3325