



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

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MEMORANDUM

To: All Institutions Participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

From: Falita S. Flowers, Nutrition Services Director (*Original Signed*)

Date: July 21, 2016

Subject: Implementation of the Updated Child and Adult Care Food Program Meal Pattern Requirements and the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs' Infant and Preschool Meal Patterns

Legal Authority: USDA Policy Memorandum CACFP 14-2016

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, Public Law 111-296, amended section 17 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (NSLA), 42 U.S.C. 1766, to require the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to update the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) meal pattern requirements to make them more consistent with (a) the most recent version of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, (b) the most recent relevant nutrition science, and (c) appropriate authoritative scientific agency and organization recommendations.

On April 25, 2016 USDA's Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) published the final rule "Child and Adult Care Food Program: Meal Pattern Revisions Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act" (81 FR 24348) to update the CACFP meal patterns in 7 CFR 226.20. This final rule also revised the meal pattern requirements for infants and children aged 1 through 4 (preschool) in the NSLP and SBP, under 7 CFR 210.10 and 220.8, respectively, to match the CACFP meal pattern requirements. Overall, the updated meal patterns strengthen the nutritional quality of the meals served, allow CACFP institutions to serve more diverse and culturally appropriate foods, and address dietary needs of Program participants.

On June 24, 2016, USDA issued the memorandum, CACFP 14-2016, *Early Implementation of the Updated Child and Adult Care Food Program Meal Pattern Requirements and the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs' Infant and Preschool Meal Patterns*. The memorandum gives State agencies the discretion to allow CACFP institutions to begin implementing certain allowances in the updated meal patterns that are not allowed in the current meal patterns. The memorandum also outlines options for implementing the updated CACFP meal pattern requirements and the updated infant and preschool meal

pattern requirements in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) prior to next year's compliance date of October 1, 2017.

Although USDA has provided flexibility to State Agencies on early implementation of the newly updated meal pattern, these flexibilities are not required. Therefore, DECAL has opted to follow USDA's requirement to **implement the updated meal pattern effective October 1, 2017.** This action allows DECAL to undergo the following:

1. Establish the full migration of all institutions' electronic Program data from CNP 2000 to the new Georgia ATLAS system;
2. Implement training development, facilitation and technical assistance on the updated meal pattern requirements for all institutions;
3. Avoid unexpected meal disallowances resulting from inconsistencies/overlap between the updated CACFP meal patterns and the current CACFP; and
4. Establish consistency between CACFP and CCS rule requirements on meal pattern requirements.

The actions highlighted above are designed to ensure CACFP institutions receive ample time to learn, understand, and comply with the updated meal pattern requirements.

USDA will provide continued guidance and resources to State Agencies on implementing the newly updated meal pattern requirements. DECAL will also provide continuous guidance and information to all institutions in the months leading to the October 1, 2017 implementation.

For questions concerning this memorandum, please contact the Sonja Adams, Policy Administrator at 404-651-8193.