



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

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Governor

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MEMORANDUM

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

From: Falita Flowers, Nutrition Services Interim Director

Date: May 9, 2014

Subject: Crediting Handbook for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

The purpose of this memorandum is to announce the release of USDA's Food Nutrition Services (FNS) *Crediting Handbook for the Child and Adult Care Food Program*, a food crediting guide that is written under the current CACFP meal patterns. This exciting resource complements the *Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs* by providing crediting information on foods that are commonly served in child and adult care centers, family day care homes, and at-risk afterschool care centers. The *Crediting Handbook* also incorporates and updates the crediting information in previous publications *What's in a Meal?* and *Crediting Foods in the Child and Adult Care Food Program*. Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Sponsors may reference the *Crediting Handbook* when operating their summer programs.

Pages 10 through 13 of the *Crediting Handbook*, reference the CACFP meal pattern for children ages 1 through 12 and for adults. The pages following provide further requirements per meal component – (a) milk, (b) meat/meat alternates; (c) vegetables and fruits, (d) grains/bread requirements (bread/bread alternate). Subsequent question and answer sections are also included to assist institutions and sponsors with ensuring meal pattern requirements are met when serving meals to children and/or adults.

Various changes and updates made to the meal pattern requirements over the past few years are also reflected in this handbook. For example:

- A wider variety of foods are included in the handbook;

- More emphasis is placed on the importance of choosing foods that are lower in saturated fats and trans fats;
- A “*maybe*” column has now been added to the food credit assessment chart. Components previously deemed creditable, may now require additional documentation such as CN labels to confirm the food item meets the meal pattern requirements (e.g., chicken nuggets, turkey bacon, frozen fruit/juice bars, etc.); and
- Yogurt may not be substituted as a milk serving.

Please Note: The *Crediting Handbook for the Child and Adult Care Food Program* does not replace USDA’s *Food Buying Guide*. In addition, the *Crediting Handbook* does not provide guidance concerning the CACFP infant meal patterns or feeding. Please refer to Bright from the Start’s handbooks, policies and memos as a resource. The lists of creditable and non-creditable foods in this handbook are not all-inclusive, but includes only those foods that are commonly served in child care programs. See also Bright from the Start’s Policy Memorandum, “*Variation in Meal Requirements for Religious Reasons*,” (dated April 2, 2013) for participants with meal restrictions due to religious purposes.

The *Crediting Handbook for the Child and Adult Care Food Program* is currently accessible on the Bright from the Start web site at:

<http://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/CredibleFoodGuide.pdf> and also the USDA FNS web site at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/crediting-handbook-child-and-adult-care-food-program>.

If you have any questions concerning this memo, please feel free to contact Sonja R. Adams, Policy Administrator at (404) 651-8193.