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Scheduled

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**Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning**

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Effective 6/8/2026

Last Revised 5/14/2026

Area Memo: Meals/
Food Service

Expanding Fluid Milk Options in the Child Nutrition Programs

Legal Authority

91 FR 25073

Requirements

On May 8, 2026, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service published the final rule, [Expanding Fluid Milk Options in Child Nutrition Programs](#) (91 FR 25073) effective June 8, 2026. This rule expands fluid milk options by allowing operators of the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Special Milk Program for Children to offer whole and reduced-fat milk to participants two years and older. This rule codifies milkfat requirements following enactment of the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025 ([P.L. 119-69](#)) and supports the statutory requirements for meals to align with the goals of the [Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025–2030](#). By removing previous fluid milkfat-content restrictions, this deregulatory rule restores flexibility to Program operators, allowing them to offer a greater variety of fluid milk options, including whole and reduced-fat milk, to meet the nutrition needs and preferences of the children and adults they serve.

USDA Food and Nutrition Service will follow up in the coming days with an implementation memorandum to Child Nutrition Program Regional Office and State Agency Directors to provide information and guidance on implementation of the final rule.

Comments

You may find an official copy of the USDA News Release on Expanding Fluid Milk Options in the Child Nutrition Programs [here](#). DECAL will provide additional information on this guidance as soon as further USDA guidance is received.

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

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