



Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning

BRIGHT FROM THE START

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MEMORANDUM

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

From: Tamika Boone, Director of Nutrition Services (*Original Signed*)

Date: October 1, 2020 (v.2)

Subject: Flexibility Guidance – Updated Child and Adult Care Food Program Meal Patterns and Updated National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Infant and Preschool Meal Patterns

Legal Authority: USDA Policy Memorandum SP 01-2019, CACFP 01-2019

This memo supersedes the DECAL policy memorandum, *Flexibility Guidance for FY 2019 – Updated Child and Adult Care Food Program Meal Patterns and Updated National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Infant and Preschool Meal Patterns*, November 30, 2019.

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance to institutions and sponsors participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) who continue to experience challenges with meeting the updated CACFP meal pattern requirements and the meal pattern requirements for infants and preschoolers in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP).

Background

Approximately two and half years ago, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published the final rule entitled “*Child and Adult Care Food Program: Meal Pattern Revisions Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.*”¹

Its primary function was to update the CACFP meal pattern requirements as well as the meal pattern requirements for both infants and preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP. Subsequently, participating institutions and sponsors were notified that each had until October 1, 2017 to comply with the new rule change.

¹81 FR 24348

Presently however, operational challenges with respect to the recent change remain. As such, and pursuant to USDA guidance, the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) will also be exercising state-level flexibility during Fiscal Year 2021 to assist institutions and sponsors with the implementation of the updated meal pattern requirements in hopes of overcoming such challenges.

FY 2021 Flexibility

For FY 2021 and relative to the CACFP, when DECAL finds that an institution, which prepares its own meals is failing to meet meal pattern requirements, fiscal action may not be taken if DECAL determines that other actions would have a corrective effect. Additionally, for those schools serving preschool meal patterns through the School Meal Programs, DECAL will provide training and technical assistance and allow for corrective action prior to assessing the need for fiscal action. However, if a meal is completely missing one or more of the required food components, both DECAL and CACFP sponsoring organizations will continue to take immediate fiscal action.²

Technical Assistance and Other Resources

To continue to assist institutions and sponsors with overcoming operational challenges due to the updated meal pattern requirements, DECAL has provided the following additional resources:

- DECAL, *CACFP Updated Meal Pattern Resources*, available at <http://decalfga.gov/CACFP/UpdatedMealPatterns.aspx>
- USDA FNS, *Nutrition Standards for CACFP Meals and Snacks*, available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/meals-and-snacks>
- USDA, FNS, Webinars and Training, *CACFP Halftime: Thirty on Thursdays Training Webinars*, available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/webinars-and-training>
- The Institute of Child Nutrition, *CACFP Meal Pattern Resources*, available at <https://theicn.org/cacfp>

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

² “Meal” is defined as food which is served to enrolled participants at an institution, child care facility or adult day care facility and which meets the nutritional requirements set forth in Part 226 of Title 7. However, children participating in At-Risk afterschool care centers, emergency shelters, or outside-schools-hours care centers do not have to be enrolled. *See* 7 CFR § 226.2.