



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**TO:** Sponsors of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP) and Special Milk Program (SMP)

**FROM:** Paul F. Flinter, Chief  
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

**DATE:** February 29, 2008

**SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum # 10-08**  
I. Crediting of Corn Meal (Cornmeal) and Corn Flour for Grains/Breads Component  
II. Updated *Eligibility Guidance for School Meals Manual*

**I. Crediting of Corn Meal (Cornmeal) and Corn Flour for Grains/Breads Component**

To be credited as a grains/breads component for Food-Based Menu Planning approaches for all Child Nutrition Programs, grain products must be enriched, or whole-grain, or made from enriched or whole-grain meal and/or flour. Bran and germ are credited the same as enriched or whole-grain meal or flour.

In the past, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) allowed corn meal (cornmeal) and corn flour to be counted as a whole grain for crediting grains/breads. This allowance occurred because the standard of identity for "corn meal" and "corn flour" was interpreted as yielding a whole grain. However, on February 17, 2006, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published draft guidance entitled "Whole Grain Label Statements" that contained the following statement: "*Degerminated and bolted cornmeals should not be considered whole grain products because germ or bran has been removed during processing. Because the rest of the meal [flour] standards allow removal of some of the hull, these also should not be considered whole grain products.*" This clarification by FDA of the standards of identity for "corn meal" and "corn flour" indicates that these products should no longer be considered as whole grains for the Child Nutrition Programs.

As a result of this clarification, effective **July 1, 2008**, to be credited toward meeting meal pattern requirements, corn must be labeled as:

1. "whole corn" (or other "whole" corn designations, such as whole grain corn, whole ground corn, whole cornmeal and whole corn flour);  
or
2. "enriched" corn (or other "enriched" corn designations, such as enriched yellow cornmeal, enriched corn flour and enriched corn grits).

USDA has indicated that this change does not impact the **Food Buying Guide's** FCS Instruction 783.1 Rev 2: *Exhibit A Grains/Breads for the Food-Based Menu Planning Alternatives in the Child Nutrition Programs*. Corn muffins will remain in Group C, which requires a minimum weight of 31 grams (1.1 ounces) to provide a serving of grains/breads.

## II. **Updated Eligibility Guidance for School Meals Manual**

USDA has issued the *Eligibility Manual for School Meals* dated January 2008. A copy is enclosed. This manual contains important information on federal requirements regarding the determination and verification of eligibility for free and reduced price meals in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. These provisions also apply to the determination of eligibility for free milk under the Special Milk Program.

This manual **replaces** the *Eligibility Guidance for School Meals Manual* issued in August 2001. The updated version reflects changes made as a result of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-265), final and interim regulations and policy clarifications issued since August 2001. Additional copies may be downloaded at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/DEPS/Nutrition/EligGuidManual.pdf>. Please share this information with all determining and verifying officials in your school district or institution.

Questions pertaining to this memorandum may be directed to:

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