



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Sponsors of the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs

FROM: Cheryl Resha, Education Manager
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

DATE: November 14, 2008

SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum # 2-09

1. State Matching Advance Payment
2. Food Safety Inspections
3. Aerated Beverages Categorized as “Soda Water” from the Competitive Food Services Regulation
4. Civil Rights

1. State Match Advance Payments

State Match advance payments for school year 2008-2009 have been processed and mailed to sponsors of the National School Lunch Program. The calculations were based on 75% of the amount of the state match payment that each sponsor received last year. A copy of the list of payment amounts are enclosed for your information. The final payments, based on actual lunch counts for the prior year, will be sent out in April 2009.

The advance payment and final payment checks will have the following identification information on the check stub:

Public Sponsors: PUBSTMCH 11000-16072
Private Sponsors: PRVSTMCH 11000-16072

2. Food Safety Inspections

As a reminder, in accordance with Section 111 of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, schools participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs are required to have a minimum of two food safety and sanitation inspections per year. If the district has not fulfilled this requirement, then a request for food safety and sanitation inspections must be made by the School Food Authority to the local health department. All requests must be in writing for documentation and audit purposes.

3. Aerated Beverages Categorized as “Soda Water” from the Competitive Food Services Regulation

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has recently determined that all beverages labels as, “aerated” or that bubble and fizz for several minutes after opening are to be categorized as “Soda Water” defined by the Competitive Food Services regulation 7 CFR Part 210.11 and Appendix B.

Though the definition for soda water found in Appendix B (a)(1) only uses carbon dioxide as the measure, USDA does not differentiate between aerated water and soda water. These two types of products are viewed and served the same way, and USDA does not believe that children can separate the two products. Therefore, USDA considers aerated beverages to be foods of minimal nutrition value and they may not be served in the food service area during meal periods of the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.

4. Civil Rights

This is a reminder that sponsors of the Child Nutrition Programs are required to conduct Civil Rights training for their staff. This was addressed at the recent School Nutrition Program conference on September 25, 2008. Information regarding Civil Rights and the Child Nutrition Programs may be found at USDA's website: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cr/crregulation.htm>. A copy of the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Instruction 113-1 *Civil Rights Compliance and Enforcement – Nutrition Programs and Activities* may also be found at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cr/Documents/113-1.pdf>.

To assist sponsors in conducting the Civil Rights training, a PowerPoint presentation is located on the following Connecticut State Department of Education's website <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2626&q=320676>.

If you have questions about any of the information provided in this Memorandum, please contact Teri Dandeneau at 860-807-2079 or teri.dandeneau@ct.gov or Bob Zwack at 860-807-2081 or robert.zwack@ct.gov.

CR:tdd

Enclosure