



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**TO:** Sponsors of the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program

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

**DATE:** April 28, 2010

**SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum #12-10**  
1. Extension of School into the Summer Months  
2. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC)

**1. Extension of School into the Summer Months**

This is a reminder that Local Education Agencies (LEAs) that wish to serve reimbursable lunches and/or breakfasts during the summer months (beyond June 30, 2010) can do so if: 1) the school year is extended; 2) there is an official required academic summer school program in place; or 3) if they participate in either the Summer Food Service Program or the Seamless Summer Food Program. If an LEA decides to serve reimbursable meals during summer due to an extension of the school year or a required academic summer school, they must submit a letter requesting an extension of their National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Programs to the attention of Cheryl Resha, Education Manager, no later than **June 1, 2010**. Avis Kelly should also be copied on the letter. The mailing address is Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457.

The letter should include the schools that are requesting the extension, the reason for the extension (e.g., academic summer school, etc.) and the ending date of the program. Failure to request an extension could jeopardize the receipt of federal dollars for the reimbursable meals served.

**2. The USDA's HUSSC**

The USDA's HUSSC is a voluntary national certification program that recognizes excellence in nutrition and physical activity. The Challenge is designed to bring schools closer to compliance with the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* and the Institute of Medicine's recommendations for school meals<sup>1</sup> and foods in schools.<sup>2</sup>

The Challenge is also a key component of the recently announced First Lady Michelle Obama's *Let's Move!* initiative to raise a healthier generation of kids ([www.letsmove.gov](http://www.letsmove.gov)). The initiative includes the goal of doubling the number of HUSSC schools by June 2011 and adding 1,000 more schools for each of the following two years.

The FY 2010 conference agreement from Congress provided the Food and Nutrition Service with funds to support and expand the number of HUSSC schools. The availability of monetary incentives for award winning schools was announced on March 1, 2010, by Dr. Janey Thornton, the USDA's Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services during the School Nutrition Association's Legislative Action Conference in Washington, D.C.

The monetary incentives are available to all schools that achieve HUSSC status by meeting the required criteria beginning on January 1, 2009. Schools approved as a HUSSC school under the current criteria prior to this announcement, will be eligible for the monetary incentive award.

In addition to the plaque, banner and recognition currently provided, HUSSC schools approved under the current criteria will receive the following monetary incentive awards:

- \$2,000 Gold Award of Distinction
- \$1,500 Gold
- \$1,000 Silver
- \$500 Bronze

All HUSSC award monies must be deposited into the nonprofit school food service account and used for allowable expenses under that account. The monetary incentive awards are available until the funds are depleted. The USDA will process the applications in the order they are received.

Districts are encouraged to participate in the USDA's HUSSC. For more information the following resources are available:

- A dedicated HUSSC Web site, accessed from [teamnutrition.usda.gov](http://teamnutrition.usda.gov)
- An Application Kit with guidance and materials to lead applicants through the process
- An interactive, online application that simplifies and streamlines the process ([healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/hsmrs/HUSSC](http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/hsmrs/HUSSC))
- An online Competitive Foods Calculator to quickly determine if an item meets the HUSSC criteria
- Power Point Presentations with notes for administrators and foodservice staff available online and in Application Kit
- Information from the [Healthy Meals Resource System](#), recipes and ideas for nutrition education and physical activity
- Training available from the National Food Service Management Institute ([www.nfsmi.org](http://www.nfsmi.org))

Additionally, as part of the 2010 Child Nutrition Reauthorization there is currently proposed legislation that will provide *even more funding* for those schools that are awarded the HUSSC certificate.

Questions may be directed to:

<b>COUNTIES</b>	<b>CONSULTANT</b>	<b>E-MAIL</b>	<b>PHONE</b>
<b>Hartford and Windham</b>	Teri Dandeneau	<a href="mailto:teri.dandeneau@ct.gov">teri.dandeneau@ct.gov</a>	860-807-2079
<b>Litchfield and Middlesex</b>	Fionnuala Brown	<a href="mailto:fionnuala.brown@ct.gov">fionnuala.brown@ct.gov</a>	860-807-2048
<b>Fairfield and New London</b>	Jackie Schipke	<a href="mailto:jackie.schipke@ct.gov">jackie.schipke@ct.gov</a>	860-807-2123
<b>New Haven and Tolland</b>	Bob Zwack	<a href="mailto:robert.zwack@ct.gov">robert.zwack@ct.gov</a>	860-807-2081

CR:tdd

<sup>1</sup> IOM (Institute of Medicine). 2010. School Meals: Building Blocks for Healthy Children. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. (<http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2009/School-Meals-Building-Blocks-for-Healthy-Children.aspx>)

<sup>2</sup> IOM (Institute of Medicine). 2007. Nutrition Standards for Foods in Schools: Leading the Way toward healthier Youth. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. (<http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2007/Nutrition-Standards-for-Foods-in-Schools-Leading-the-Way-toward-Healthier-Youth.aspx>)