



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**TO:** Sponsors of the School Child Nutrition Programs

**FROM:** John Frassinelli, Chief  
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

**DATE:** July 11, 2013

**SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum #39-13**  
Frozen Fruit Products in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs in School Year 2014-15

This memorandum extends the provision to serve frozen fruit with added sugar in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). It supersedes the Connecticut State Department of Education's [Operational Memorandum 13-12](#), Frozen Fruit Products and Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, dated March 2, 2012.

The final rule, [Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs](#), published on January 26, 2012, requires that frozen fruits served in the NSLP contain no added sugars beginning school year (SY) 2012-13. It also requires that frozen fruits served in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) contain no added sugars beginning SY 2014-15. Since 2009, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has reduced the amount of added sugars in packing media for frozen fruits offered to states; however, most of the frozen strawberries, peaches and apricots offered by the USDA currently contain added sugars.

The new regulation allows for a water (unsweetened) or juice-only frozen fruit pack. However, industry continues to require additional time to reformulate frozen fruit products without added sugars that have a flavor and texture that is acceptable. In addition, due to the growing season these products must be purchased with a long lead time to be available for schools. **Therefore, schools may continue to serve frozen fruit with added sugar in the NSLP and SBP through SY 2014-15 (June 30, 2015).** This exemption applies to products acquired through USDA Foods as well as those purchased commercially.

The USDA currently offers unsweetened frozen fruits and encourages states and school food authorities to order those products. Additionally, the USDA is continuing to work with industry to offer frozen fruits through USDA Foods that will be unsweetened or juice pack products available for schools to order in future years.

In light of the continued product development challenges faced by industry, the USDA is currently considering options for a longer term change. The USDA continues to welcome input from a broad range of program stakeholders and interested parties regarding the impact of such a change.

Questions pertaining to this memorandum may be directed to the following:

COUNTY ASSIGNMENTS	CONSULTANT
Litchfield County New London County	Fionnuala Brown <a href="mailto:fionnuala.brown@ct.gov">fionnuala.brown@ct.gov</a> 860-807-2129
Fairfield County Middlesex County (towns/cities beginning with C-E) New Haven County (towns/cities beginning with A-M)	Jackie Schipke <a href="mailto:jackie.schipke@ct.gov">jackie.schipke@ct.gov</a> 860-807-2123
Middlesex County (towns/cities beginning with F-W) Tolland County Windham County	Susan Alston <a href="mailto:susan.alston@ct.gov">susan.alston@ct.gov</a> 860-807-2081
Hartford County New Haven County (towns/cities beginning with N-W)	Teri Dandeneau <a href="mailto:teri.dandeneau@ct.gov">teri.dandeneau@ct.gov</a> 860-807-2079

JF:sff

Important: This is a numbered Operational Memorandum that contains important program information. Please read carefully and retain in a binder for your future reference. Operational Memoranda are also posted on the Child Nutrition Web site at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2626&q=320676>.

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