



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Sponsors of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs

FROM: Teri Dandeneau, Education Consultant
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

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DATE: September 18, 2012

SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum #41-12
Revised Requirements for Frozen Fruit Products and Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs

This memo supersedes the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Operational Memorandum 13-12 dated March 2, 2012. The final rule published on January 26, 2012, requires that frozen fruit served in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) contains no added sugar beginning school year (SY) 2012-13. 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, to provide school food authorities (SFAs) with time to use existing inventories, and to recognize the time needed for industry to reformulate and to pack new frozen fruit products, schools may continue to serve frozen fruit with added sugar in the NSLP for SY 2012-13 and SY 2013-14.

The CSDE Operational Memorandum 13-12 (March 2, 2012) stated that frozen fruit with added sugar may continue to be served in SY 2012-13 only; **the USDA has extended this exemption for SY 2013-14.**

This exemption applies to products acquired through USDA Foods as well as those purchased commercially and is only for SY 2012-13 and SY 2013-14.

The USDA also currently offers unsweetened frozen fruits, and encourages SFAs to order those products. Additionally, the USDA is working with industry to ensure that all frozen fruits offered through USDA Foods will be unsweetened or juice pack products available for schools to order for SY 2014-15.

Questions may be directed to:

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