



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Potential 2013 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Sponsors

FROM: Fionnuala Brown, Associate Education Consultant
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

DATE: April 8, 2013

SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum #04-13 – SFSP
Serving Additional Foods in the SFSP

This memorandum provides guidance to State agencies on the allowable use of program funds for additional foods served in the SFSP. In accordance with the SFSP meal service requirements outlined in 7 CFR §225.16(f)(8), additional foods may be served with each meal to “improve the nutrition of participating children.” Previous guidance has recommended that program operators serve additional foods (i.e., those foods served in addition to the food necessary to meet the meal pattern requirements) when remaining program funds are available (OM #02-08-SFSP: *Nationwide Expansion of Summer Food Service Program Simplified Cost Accounting Procedures*, March 17, 2008).

The Connecticut State Department of Education anticipates that most sites will exhaust their program funds administering the program and providing food to meet the meal pattern. However, if a site chooses to purchase additional food with SFSP funds, the food must be a creditable food under the meal pattern requirements. (Condiments served with a creditable food are exempt from this restriction.) If, in the past, sites have purchased additional low-nutrient foods to serve outside of the reimbursable meal, please be aware that expenditures for foods that could not be served as part of the reimbursable meal based on the SFSP meal patterns are no longer allowable costs. Sites wishing to serve additional foods that do not meet SFSP meal pattern standards must use non-Program funds.

Sites with additional funds available are encouraged to use the funds to improve the reimbursable meals served by using fresher, healthier, more nutritious products, such as fresh fruits and vegetables, lean meats, and unprocessed cheeses. Food such as turkey wraps, fresh watermelon, grapes, and carrots with hummus are nutritious options that children enjoy.

Given the renewed emphasis on improving the nutrition of our Nation’s children, the most appropriate use of program funds is to increase the nutritional value of the meals children receive through the SFSP. This interpretation is supported by the program regulations, as noted above, and the Food and Nutrition Service Financial Management Instruction 796-4, Revision 4.

Questions may be directed to Fionnuala Brown at 860-807-2129 or fionnuala.brown@ct.gov.

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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 the following link: <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2626&q=333792>.