



STATE OF IOWA

TERRY BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
JASON E. GLASS, DIRECTOR

July 30, 2012

Dear School Administrator,

Effective July 1, 2012, schools participating in USDA School Meal Programs are required to meet new nutrition standards for breakfast and lunch, as a result of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act. The new standards build on the great work that Iowa schools are already doing to provide healthy school meals and will include:

- Increasing the amount of fruits, vegetables (dark green, red/orange, legumes), and whole grains.
- Reducing sodium and setting calorie maximums for the first time.
- Performance-based cash assistance to schools that become certified compliant with the standards.

Food service staff will face some challenges to meet the new requirements and need the support of administration and school staff to succeed.

- Invite your Food Service staff to present about the school meal changes during staff in-service.
- Encourage your staff to take an interest in the school meal program by joining their students for lunch or making time to talk to their students about their school lunch choices.
- Encourage food service staff to attend trainings to help prepare them for the changes and plan some additional time in their work schedule to master the new requirements and complete certification documentation needed to receive the additional six cents.
- Ensure that the lunch shifts reflect the different grade grouping meal pattern requirements.

A webpage has been developed to assist schools with meeting the new standards. The webpage includes a series of webcasts that can be used for staff trainings, menu planning tools, promotional materials, communications tools, and videos. www.tinyurl.com/schoolnutritionstandards2012

The Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act also expands the scope of wellness policies, by requiring schools to inform and update the public about the content and implementation of the local wellness policies. Iowa Team Nutrition and Iowa Partners: Action for Healthy Kids have developed a guide to identify specific strategies and actions that schools can take to increase community engagement in school wellness activities. <http://tinyurl.com/schoolwellnesscommunityguide>

If you have any questions, please contact Angie Mitchell at angela.mitchell@iowa.gov or 515-725-2626 or Amanda Miller at amanda.miller@iowa.gov or 515-725-2627. Thank you for your continued support of healthy school meals for healthy students!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Feilmann".

Ann Feilmann
Bureau Chief of Nutrition and Health Services

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