

Waiver of Requirement for Weighted Averages - Reauthorization 2004

Purpose:

Section 110 of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 amended section 9(f)(5) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to extend the waiver of the requirement for weighted averages for nutrient analyses of school lunches and breakfasts. The waiver is extended until September 30, 2009.

Scope:

Sponsors of the School Nutrition Programs

Description:

This waiver extends to all schools using the nutrient analysis, as well as to State Agencies (SAs) conducting independent analysis as part of their ongoing review of schools' compliance with the nutrition standards. It should be noted the statute applies only to requirements imposed by USDA. The provision does not prohibit SAs from requiring schools to use weighted averages when doing nutrient analysis, nor does it prohibit SAs from using weighted averages when doing nutrient analyses as a part of nutrition reviews of schools using food-based menu planning systems. The Indiana State Agency will continue to weight the nutrient analysis conducted by our staff as a part of the SMI review process.

USDA believes weighted analysis to be a more accurate and useful method for doing nutrient analysis since it is based on student selection and, therefore, allows schools, States and federal policy makers to assess whether students are actually making more informed healthier choices. Once a State or school knows what kind of choices students are making, they are in a better position to modify menus and design nutrition education programs to address any issues revealed by the nutrient analysis.