

JUNE 2012



# Summer Bulletin

SFSP SPONSOR NEWSLETTER

Food That's In When School is Out

Volume 3, Issue 1

## New Meal Patterns Changes are on the Way

For the coming school year 2012-2013, new USDA meal pattern standards will be implemented by sponsors of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). The New Meal Pattern guidelines will require most schools to increase the availability of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free and low-fat fluid milk in school meals. In addition, it requires schools to reduce the levels of sodium, saturated fat and trans-fat in meals, and meet the average caloric needs of school children within their age groups. USDA has not directed the Summer Food Service Programs (SFSP) to follow these specific standards, but the Indiana Department of Education would like all SFSP sponsors to consider implementing the recommendations because many of these changes will affect SFSP in 2013. We know our Indiana SFSP sponsors like to get ahead of the game!



The New Meal Pattern changes ensure that every child receives a nutritious meal that includes five components. The new guidelines are more specific, especially in the vegetable category. Vegetables from four categories are required per week, including dark green vegetables, red/orange vegetables, bean/peas (legumes), and starchy vegetables. The amount served for each vegetable subgroup differs, but the minimum serving of total vegetables offered per day will be at least 3/4 cup or more depending on the children's age. The new pattern now requires a minimum of 1/2 cup serving or more per day of fruit, which makes a total of 2 1/2 cups or 5 cups per week based on the age group. Increasing fruit and vegetable consumption is an essential goal of the New Meal Pattern and sponsors are encouraged to offer a variety, especially fresh produce.

Milk offered this fall during school lunch must either be fat-free or 1% milk. Any flavored milk to be served must be fat-free. The regulations require at least 50% of all grains served per week be whole grains. Furthermore, sodium will need to be

reduced in meals, but will not become officially required until the school year 2014-2015. A more detailed description of the new nutrition standards can be found at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-01-26/pdf/2012-1010.pdf> or on page 15 of 80.



2012 SFSP sponsors are NOT required to implement the changes, but the State Agency highly encourages Indiana sponsors to start working these guidelines into SFSP menus. The New Meal Pattern standards help add variety to the lunches and give sponsors the chance to introduce new foods to children during the summer. These improvements to the school meal programs are expected to enhance the diet and health of school children, and help decline the trend of epidemic childhood obesity.



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### Reimbursement Claim Reminders

- Meal counts must be kept separately for each month and by site. When combining two months, check the appropriate box on the claim form.
- Never add the totals served in one month to the totals served in another month; the meal totals have to be submitted under the full month and then if combined, the month with fewer days will be added.
- An average processing time for a claim is about 3-4 weeks.
- Locate the helpful attachment on how to submit a claim in your SFSP approval email. Additionally a specific email with instructions will be sent to the program contact person before the end of June.

## Mobile Summer Sites in Connersville

Children in Connersville will not go without a nutritious lunch this summer. School may be out, but lunch is still being served to children, ages 18 and younger, living in Connersville, Indiana. Siobhan Carey, the Director of Dining Services of Fayette County School Corporation, has teamed up with Gleaners Food Bank to sponsor Spartan Summer Food Truck, the first mobile summer meals service in the state. The truck follows a route around Connersville delivering lunches to children at designated feeding locations that have been approved by the State Agency. The USDA Summer Food Service Program operated by Fayette County School Corporation began meal service May 21 and provides about 120 lunches per day via the new mobile route. Cold sack lunches are offered daily during the summer break. The Spartan Summer Food Truck stops at a total of eight designated feeding locations every weekday between 11:00 AM and 3:15 PM.



*One of the five mobile sites located in the low income Elephant Hill Mobile Home Park where the neighborhood children receive free lunches every weekday*

Meals are free of charge, but all participants must be consumed at the site as required by the program regulations. Also, thanks to the partnership with Gleaners Food Bank, the school corporation is able to offer free Grab and Go meals at three designated locations, in addition to the SFSP meal. The Grab and Go meals are different from the regular program lunches and contain more shelf-stable items while still providing a nutritionally balanced meal.

Many parents and caregivers in the community have embraced the opportunity and appreciate the efforts of the ones who work behind the scenes to make the Spartan Summer Food Truck a success. The families are most grateful for the convenient access to the meals, savings to their budget, and enjoy time spent with their children instead of worrying about how they will feed children lunch that day. As with

every new endeavor, it comes with challenges that even the most careful preparations and planning cannot eliminate but the staff is convinced that the benefits that the local children reap will greatly outweigh the obstacles and hard work. The Spartan Summer Food Truck is a great accomplishment but there is much room to grow, especially since there are over 4000 children in Connersville and more than half of them are considered needy during the school year. The next step is using the social media tools such as Facebook to spread the word to the community. The following link is a video coverage from WISH TV 8 News Station about the Spartan Summer Food Truck during its first week of operation in May 2012.

[http://www.wishtv.com/dpp/news/local/east\\_central/summer-meals-go-mobile-to-meet-needs?ref=scroller&categoryId=10001&status=true](http://www.wishtv.com/dpp/news/local/east_central/summer-meals-go-mobile-to-meet-needs?ref=scroller&categoryId=10001&status=true)



*Pictured is the Spartan Summer Food Truck and it's crew members Randy Sherwood and Rachel Amrhein*



*Spartan crew in action - unloading milk coolers in preparation of the next meal service in Connersville Park*

## Power Panther for a Visit

At a recent summer feeding program promotional event in Indianapolis, a special fuzzy friend made his first ever SFSP debut in front of many curious youngsters. The USDA mascot, Power Panther, was received with great excitement by young and old and could also be available for a visit in your area of SFSP operations.

The full man-size body suit complete with shoes and gloves can be loaned



from our office to promote the SFSP sites or a special community event in your area. For a complete information concerning this offer, email Marcia Yurczyk at [murczyk@doe.in.gov](mailto:murczyk@doe.in.gov).

In this picture, the Power Panther role is played by one of our own team members, Indianapolis area Field Consultant, Sharmela Snell.

## Field Trips

Sponsors are required to notify and obtain approval from our office in advance for all field trips that affect the time or location of the meal service.

Any upcoming trip or change in schedule should be updated in the CNP web on the correct site sheet at least 24 hours in advance.

If the State Agency is not notified prior to the field trip, meals served will be considered “consumed offsite” and may not be reimbursed.

## Did you Know?

SFFP federal regulations (7 CFR Chapter 2, Pt. 225) are the “rules” by which the Summer Food Service Program must operate. However, policies and memorandums issued by the State Agency carry the same weight as the federal regulations. Every organization participating in the SFSP must be in compliance with these policies. Familiarize your organization with this important information by reviewing the

**Policies** section of the SFSP webpage

<http://www.doe.in.gov/student-services/nutrition/sfsp-policies>



## Summer Feeding is in Full Swing in Indianapolis



The week of June 11 marked a national SFSP awareness week and a special opening event was held in Indianapolis. Among the guests were the State Superintendent Dr. Tony Bennett and the US Congressman Andre Carson



The SFSP mascot, Power Panther, is providing positive reinforcement to the kids who attended the Summer Servings opening event



Summer Servings sign is displayed at a local feeding site. Summer Servings is an anti-hunger group leading the campaign to provide more nutritious meals to the needy children in the Indianapolis / Marion County area



It is time for some lighthearted moments of fun as the Division Director, Julie Sutton (in the center), and Dr. Bennett (on the right) are joined by the Power Panther and other guests



Power Panther is joined by (left to right) Julie Sutton and Leslie Power, the Deputy Director of Indy Parks



Power Panther shows hoola-hoop moves while children are involved in various games and physical activities offered in conjunction with the meal service

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