



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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

FROM: Cheryl Resha, Education Manager *Cheryl Resha*
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

DATE: July 18, 2012

SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum #36-12
Residential Child Care Institutions Exception for Safety if Serving Multiple Age/Grade Groups

This memorandum allows residential child care institutions (RCCIs) meeting certain requirements to serve one meal pattern even when the ages/grades being served span more than one age/grade group. The required age/grade groups are specified in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) meal patterns. These meal patterns are available on the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) Meal Patterns for Residential Child Care Institutions Web page at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2626&q=334100>.

Specifically, this memorandum applies only to RCCIs that meet the following three criteria: 1) are juvenile detention or correctional facilities; 2) consist of more than one age/grade group; and 3) have legitimate safety concerns or state juvenile justice laws or regulations related to offering meals with varying amounts of food within the same meal period.

For these facilities only, the CSDE may permit the RCCI to serve NSLP/SBP meals with the same amount of food at the meal service. In such cases, RCCIs shall serve meals meeting the NSLP meal pattern in effect for the highest age/grade group represented, to ensure nutritional adequacy. RCCIs that meet the requirements above must obtain approval from the CSDE prior to implementing this option. The CSDE will consider RCCI requests to implement this option on a case-by-case basis and must ensure that all three criteria are met.

This exception to the age/grade groups applies only to the situations described in this memo. Ensuring the health and safety of the children served by the program is critically important. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will continue to monitor this issue during the implementation of the new meal patterns.

Questions may be directed to:

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