

Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act: New Meal Pattern? Not quite yet!

- 1 Be patient!** The new meal pattern regs are scheduled to be issued later this month!
- 2 Start making *small* changes.** Offer a dark green or dark orange vegetable at least three times a week. Offer a whole grain item at least three days a week. Offer fresh fruit as often as possible.
- 3 Check for Trans Fat.** Check labels and purchase products with the lowest amount of saturated fat, trans fat and cholesterol.
- 4 Plan to attend training.**

MDE has scheduled training sessions in March and August. We'll also offer a session at the MSNA Conference in Duluth. (See calendar on page 2).

STAY CONNECTED

Contact us at 651-582-8526, or visit us on the web at <http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/SchSup/FNS/index.html>.

MDE Food and Nutrition Service

"We all do better when we all do better." Paul Wellstone

Hello everyone!

I am pleased that the Minnesota Department of Education, Food and Nutrition Service is fortunate to be able to carry on a valuable tool created by the MDH Great Trays project.

Through the *MDE Tickler*, FNS will be communicating with you the latest news and updates in the child nutrition arena as well as strategic plans and initiatives of MDE-FNS. We hope you'll share your success stories, questions and photos with us as well. I look forward to hearing from you and reconnecting once again!

Best Regards



Deb Lukkonen, Supervisor
School Nutrition Programs
Minnesota Department of Education

Visibility

"The quality or state of being visible. The degree of clearness."

Merriam-Webster

An important goal for FNS is to be available to answer your questions and to be visible partners. We want you to have a clear understanding of the regulations guiding Child Nutrition Programs. Please contact our office—we're here to help and assist with questions!

MDE Food & Nutrition staff attended the MSNA Annual Conference in St. Cloud last August to meet new friends and renew old friendships. L-R: Camille Jones, Kara Mitterholzer, Nancy Brady.

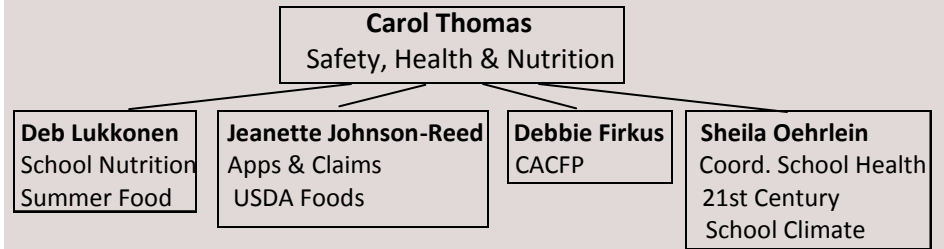


Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act: What's required *now*?

- 1 **Foster Children.** Foster children are categorically eligible for free meals.
- 2 **Skim Milk.** 2% and whole milk is no longer allowable for meal service. Serve only 1% and fat-free milk
- 3 **Potable Water.** Potable water must be available during lunch meal service.
- 4 **HACCP Plans.** Standard operating procedures and HACCP principles are required anywhere food is stored, prepared or served for CN Programs.
- 5 **Paid Lunch Equity.** Paid lunches must be high enough to cover the cost of the meal and/or meet the free reimbursement rate.

Did you know.....

The MDE Safe and Healthy Learners team, which includes Coordinated School Health programs, has joined the MDE Food and Nutrition Team. The newly re-named Safety, Health and Nutrition division now includes almost 50 employees. Carol Thomas is the director; supervisors include Deb Lukkonen, Jeanette Johnson-Reed, Debbie Firkus and Sheila Oehrlein.



New Website for MDE!

MDE introduced a new website December 1. Please be sure you've changed your "favorites" or bookmark to our new address at: <http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/index.html>



Upcoming Training

Date	Topic	Location	Time
January 25, 2012	Essentials for Small Schools	MDE—Roseville	1:00-5:00

Register at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PG7ZN7X>

• Registration is not yet open for the following training sessions, but clear your calendar as the dates are set!

March 13, 2012	SFSP Training	MDE—Roseville	Morning
	HHFKA—Meal Pattern Requirements	MDE—Roseville	Afternoon
March 21, 2012	HHFKA—Meal Pattern Requirements	MDE—Roseville	TBD
August 16, 2012	Basics of School Food Service	MDE—Roseville	TBD
August 28, 2012	Basics of School Food Service	MDE—Roseville	TBD