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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 12, 2009

TO: Food Service Directors, Superintendents, and Principals

FROM: Cathy Reed *Cathy J. Reed*

SUBJECT: Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Announcement

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill) authorizes funds for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) for all states. Participating schools must offer fresh fruits and vegetables as a snack to students during the school day. Federal regulations do not allow serving the FFVP at breakfast, lunch, or in an after-school program. Schools will be selected to participate in the FFVP based on applications submitted by elementary schools and evaluated using criteria required by federal regulations. One of the criteria requires participating elementary schools to have 50 percent or more of their students eligible for free and reduced-price meals. FFVP grant funding is available for the period of July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2010. Funds provided to any one school will range from \$50 to \$75 per student per year. The FFVP application package and the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Handbook containing additional information is posted on our Web site at: <http://www.fldoe.org/FNM/ffvp/>.

To be considered for participation in this program, please send a completed School Profile, Proposal, and Certification Form to this office no later than March 20, 2009. Mail to:

Rachael Terrin, SNS
Florida Department of Education
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1024
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

CATHY J. REED
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR, FOOD AND NUTRITION MANAGEMENT

Use of Funds

Funds are to be used primarily to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables to be served without charge to students. A small percentage of funds may be used for operating and administrative costs incurred such as value-added produce, preparation, and distribution of fruits and vegetables. The proposal narrative should indicate anticipated equipment expenditures a school might incur. A budget will be requested when sites have been selected and allocations have been determined. Claims for reimbursement will be processed through the school's child nutrition program.

Expectations for Participating Schools

Participating schools will be asked to provide information about participation, purchases, and costs to the state agency through the school food authority. Staff from selected schools will be required to attend training scheduled on the afternoon of April 29, 2009, or the morning of April 30, 2009, in Orlando, Florida. Specific details regarding this training will be provided to selected schools at a later date. If any of your schools are selected to participate, an addendum to your National School Lunch Program permanent agreement will be required. Schools will be required to serve fresh fruits and vegetables to all students a minimum of three times per week.

Selection Criteria

Schools will be selected by the state agency based on guidance in this memorandum and oversight by the United States Department of Agriculture. Section 19 of the National School Lunch Act requires the selection criteria for schools to participate in this program to include:

- Elementary schools must have 50 percent or more of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals. The highest priority will be given to schools with the highest percentages of low-income students to the maximum extent possible.
- Schools must submit a plan for implementation of the program to provide a team approach. The plan should integrate the FFVP with other efforts to promote sound health and nutrition, reduce overweight and obesity, and encourage physical activity.
- Additionally, schools must complete a certification of support with original signatures of the school food service director, food service manager, the school principal, and the district superintendent or equivalent positions as determined by the school.

How to Apply

Complete a school profile and a proposal for implementation for each school. The FFVP application package is located at <http://www.fldoe.org/FNM/ffvp/>. Completed application packages must be received in this office by March 20, 2009.

If you have any questions, please contact Rachael Terrin at 1-800-504-6609, (850) 245-9320, or rachael.terrin@fldoe.org. We hope that you will consider taking part in the FFVP as another way to help your students develop lifelong healthy eating habits.

CJR/lm

Enclosures