

NOTICE

Transition Period for the Updated Meal Patterns

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is allowing a transition period for implementation of the updated Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) meal patterns and the updated National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program (NSLP/SBP) infant and preschool meal patterns. This transition period is from 10/1/2017 through 9/30/2018.

During this transition period, if the CE has made a good faith effort to comply with the meal pattern but has non-compliances, TDA will:

- Provide technical assistance during reviews,
- Not take adverse action unless a meal is completely missing one or more of the required food components, and
- Not place contracting entities (CEs) in the serious deficiency process,

Additionally, CEs that are sponsors and School Food Authorities must also provide technical assistance when observing a non-compliance of a site or Provider that has made a good faith effort to comply with the meal pattern requirements.

A good faith effort is determined on a case-by-case basis and some examples include:

- Purchased food the CE, site or Provider believed was whole grain-rich,
- Attended available trainings on the new meal pattern requirements,
- Requested technical assistance before or during implementation,
- Meals were **not** missing components; however components were not in compliance, such as sugar limits on yogurt or cereal or did not serve at least the minimum required,
- Served two fruits instead of two vegetables,

CEs, sites, and Providers must demonstrate they are serving meals that meet the meal pattern requirements; therefore, the technical assistance provided must include how to demonstrate compliance with the updated meal pattern requirements with proper recordkeeping.