NOTICE

Expiration of Transition Period for the Updated Meal Patterns

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) allowed a one year 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 was from 10/1/2017 through 9/30/2018.

During that transition period, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) and contracting entities (CEs) that are CACFP sponsors and NSLP/SBP School Food Authorities were required to:

- Provide technical assistance during reviews,
- Take adverse action only if a meal was completely missing one or more of the required food components, and
- Not initiate the serious deficiency process for non-compliances related to the updated meal patterns,

As of October 1, 2018 the transition period expired. As indicated in USDA’s memo, CACFP 01-2019, *Guidance for FY 2019 – Updated Child and Adult Care Food Program Meal Patterns and Updated National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Infant and Preschool Meal Patterns*, the expectation is that CEs, sites and providers have fully implemented the updated meal patterns.

TDA will utilize existing flexibilities as appropriate when determining what action(s) to take if meal pattern non-compliances are found. All sponsors and School Food Authorities should also utilize existing flexibilities when reviewing sites or providers. However, failure to have implemented the updated meal pattern by a CE, site or provider must result in a finding, requires corrective action, and may result in disallowances. Disallowances will always be taken for any meals missing one or more of the required food components.