CLARIFICATION OF FEDERAL POLICY

In Texas, organizations that contract directly with Texas Department of Agriculture's USDA federally funded nutrition programs are called Contracting Entities or CEs. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is identified as a nutrition program and, as such, sponsors are considered CEs.

Creditability of Breakfast Cereals (Policy Alert SFSP 2010-02)

A breakfast cereal is creditable if any of the following are true:

1. The cereal is labeled as whole grain (100% of the grain component is whole grain);
2. The cereal is labeled as "enriched";
3. The cereal is labeled as "fortified";
4. The ingredient statement shows that the primary grain ingredient is either whole grain, enriched flour or meal, bran or germ; or
5. Manufacturer documentation provides the gram amount of creditable grains per serving.

Refer to the flow chart in Section Three, on Page 3-7 of the *Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs* (FBG) for information regarding options to determine the creditability of breakfast cereals.

Some cereal manufacturers, however, no longer attach the words "fortified" or "enriched" to the name of the cereal on the label. In addition, some cereal manufacturers add the words "whole grain" or "made with whole grain" to the product label even if the grain component is not 100% whole grain, thus making it difficult to determine if the cereal is creditable.

If the cereal label does not give enough information to complete the steps in the FBG flow chart mentioned above, you may use the following nutrient criteria entitled the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Nutrient Criteria for Breakfast Cereals as a sixth option for determining creditability of breakfast cereals.

To provide consistency in determining grains/breads creditability, the FNS Nutrient Criteria for Breakfast Cereals is based on the minimum required amounts of selected nutrients in one slice of enriched bread. The FNS Nutrition Criteria for Breakfast Cereals does not replace the guidance in the FBG or how to determine the creditability of a grain/bread, as discussed in Item 4156 of the SFSP Handbook; it just provides an additional option to determine creditability.

If you use the FNS Nutrient Criteria for Breakfast Cereals to determine creditability, then the product must contain the minimum levels of all five nutrients listed on the next page.

FNS Nutrient Criteria for Breakfast Cereals Served to Children Ages One and Older					
Required Nutrient	**Cereal Portion Size**		**Minimum % Daily Value (%DV) of Nutrient per Portion**	or	**Minimum Weight of Nutrient per Portion**
	Ready-to-Eat (whichever amount weighs less)	Ready-to-Cook			
Thiamin (B1)	1.0 ounce or ¾ cup	25 grams dry	6.7 %	or	0.10 mg
Riboflavin (B2)	1.0 ounce or ¾ cup	25 grams dry	3.5 %	or	0.06 mg
Niacin (B3)	1.0 ounce or ¾ cup	25 grams dry	4.2 %	or	0.84 mg
Folic Acid (B9)	1.0 ounce or ¾ cup	25 grams dry	5.0 %	or	20.0 mcg
Iron	1.0 ounce or ¾ cup	25 grams dry	3.9 %	or	0.70 mg

NOTE: The FNS Nutrient Criteria for Breakfast Cereals are set for specific portion sizes. The portion size for ready-to-eat breakfast cereals is one ounce **or** ¾ cup, whichever amount weighs less. The portion size for cooked cereal is 25 grams of ready-to-cook dry cereal regardless of the amount of cooked cereal served or the amount of liquid is added to cook the cereal.

If the serving size on the Nutrition Facts Label matches the cereal portion listed in the FNS Nutrient Criteria for Breakfast Cereals chart, then you can compare the nutrients listed on the Nutrition Facts Label to the FNS Nutrient Criteria for Breakfast Cereals.

If the serving size on the Nutrition Facts Label does not match the cereal portion listed in the FNS Nutrient Criteria for Breakfast Cereals chart, then you will need to convert the nutrient values from the label to determine the amount of nutrients in the required cereal portion size.

You can convert the nutrient values using the online United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Nutrient Data Laboratory; National Nutrient Database for Standard Reference or you can manually calculate the nutrient values.

It is recommended that you use the ARS National Nutrient Database for Standard Reference. The ARS National Nutrient Database for Standard Reference can be found at http://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/foodcomp/search/.