POLICY ALERT

Date: August 18, 2006  Reference: # NSLP/SBP 2006-20
To: National School Lunch/School Breakfast Program (NSLP/SBP) Contractors
Subject: HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC) Application Packet
Effective Date: Immediately

Purpose
This Policy Alert accompanies Notice NSLP/SBP 2005-11, “HealthierUS School Challenge” and provides guidance for School Food Authorities (SFAs) interested in applying to participate in the HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC).

Implementation
Immediately

Procedure
The HUSSC is designed to reward elementary schools that have changed their nutrition environments, improved the quality of the food served and provided students with more nutritious, healthy choices.

In addition to benefiting the student’s health and learning environment, participating schools will receive a plaque, recognition on the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Team Nutrition website, and will be designated as a gold or silver school for 2 years.

Special Nutrition Programs (SNP) would like to see as many gold and/or silver awards as possible be awarded to our schools participating in the NSLP/SBP.

Requirements for Participation
Schools must meet the following seven criteria to be eligible to participate in the HUSSC:

1. The applicant is a Team Nutrition school.
2. The applicant had a successful School Meal Initiative (SMI) review within five years.
3. The menus are reimbursable and meet the gold or silver standards.
4. The applicant submits a description of the nutrition education activity.
5. The applicant submits a description of the physical education activity.
6. The Average Daily Participation (ADP) for October is at least 70 percent.
7. Food/beverages that are sold a la carte or vended at the school meet the standards.

continued
Obtaining a HUSSC Application

SFAs can download the HUSSC application packet from the NSLP/SBP page of the SNP website at http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/programs/snp/HealthierUS_SchoolApp.html

The following is included in the HUSSC application packet:
- HealthierUS School Challenge Application
- HealthierUS School Challenge Criteria and Instructions for Elementary Schools
- HealthierUS School Challenge Food/Nutrient Guidance
- HealthierUS School Challenge Whole Grains Resource
- Ideas for Incorporating Food Products that are Predominantly Whole Grains in the Child Nutrition Programs
- Frequently Asked Questions

The HUSSC application includes:
- HealthierUS School Challenge Application Cover Sheet
- HealthierUS School Challenge Application Packet Check-off Sheet
- HealthierUS School Challenge Application
- Lunch Menu Worksheet – Silver
- Lunch Menu Worksheet – Gold
- HealthierUS School Challenge Nutrition Education Worksheet
- HealthierUS School Challenge Physical Activity Worksheet

Application Process

Certification procedures begin with a SFA’s self-assessment and the creation of a local review panel. This panel decides on which level of certification in the HUSSC to apply for and completes either the silver or gold application packet. At a minimum, this panel must include:
- Your school’s foodservice manager
- The school’s Team Nutrition Leader
- The school’s principle or administrator
- The SFA’s foodservice director
- A representative from the school’s parent organization
- One of the following: school nurse, coordinated school health representative, physical education teacher, or classroom teacher.

The application must be certified and signed by all review panel members.

Submit the completed application to your Area Program Office for review.
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<td><strong>If...</strong></td>
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<td>SNP approves the application,</td>
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<td>SNP does not approve application or the application is incomplete,</td>
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<td>If you have any questions please contact your Area Program Office.</td>
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