



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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SNP Memo #2012-13-09

TO: Directors, Supervisors, and Contact Persons Addressed

FROM: Catherine Digilio Grimes, MS, RD, LDN, SNS
Director, Office of School Nutrition Programs

Catherine Digilio Grimes

DATE: March 1, 2013

SUBJECT: EXTENDING Flexibility in the Maximums for the Meats/Meat Alternates and Grains Components for School Year 2013-2014

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) has extended the flexibility for the weekly maximums for grains and meats/meat alternates through **SY 2013-14 for both breakfast and lunch**. Continuing flexibility, in assessing compliance with the weekly maximums for grains and meats/meat alternates, offers menu planners additional assistance in planning menus, allows manufacturers and suppliers the time to reformulate products, and gives school divisions the ability to make more gradual changes to existing menus and better transition to full implementation of the new meal pattern.

A school division will be considered compliant with the component requirements for grains and meats/meat alternates if the menu is compliant with the daily and weekly minimums for these two components, regardless of whether they have exceeded the maximums for the same components.

The meal patterns remain unchanged. All of the remaining food components and dietary specifications, including calories must continue to be met. Calorie maximums for school meals will remain in place for each grade group. There is no change in the method of measuring the required daily minimum quantities for grains or meats/meat alternates.

If you have questions, please contact the school nutrition specialist assigned to your division or the School Nutrition Programs Office at (804) 225-2074.

CDG/idl