August 7, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: School Nutrition Supervisors
   Single Unit and Special School Administrators

FROM: Aimee F. Beam, RD, LDN
       Education Associate, Nutrition Supervisor

RE: SY 2018 - 2019 Operational Memo #7
    Clarification on the Milk and Water Requirements in SNP


If you have any questions or concerns, please call the office at 302-857-3356.

cc: Nutrition Team

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DATE: August 6, 2018

MEMO CODE: SP 19-2018

SUBJECT: Clarification on the Milk and Water Requirements in the School Meal Programs

TO: Regional Directors
    Special Nutrition Programs
    All Regions

    State Directors
    Child Nutrition Programs
    All States

This memorandum clarifies regulations that water made available to students in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) shall not compete with the milk requirement. The NSLP regulations at 7 CFR 210.10(a)(1)(i) require schools to make water available and accessible to children during the meal service. Similarly, the SBP regulations at 7 CFR 220.8(a)(1) require schools to make water available and accessible during the meal service if breakfast is served in the cafeteria. While water must be made available, schools must not directly or indirectly restrict the sale or marketing of fluid milk (7 CFR 210.10(d)(4)).

There are several ways in which a school can implement the water requirement without restricting the selection of fluid milk. Memorandum SP 28-2011, Revised July 12, 2011: Water Availability During National School Lunch Program Meal Service explains that schools can offer water pitchers and cups on lunch tables, a water fountain, or a faucet that allows students to fill their own bottles or cups with drinking water.

Although potable water must be made available to students during the meal service, it is not part of the reimbursable meal and students are not required to take water. Bottled water may be available to students on the serving line, but water should be offered after the student has the option to select milk and signage should be clear that water is not a meal component. If the school is not participating in Offer Versus Serve (OVS), a reimbursable meal must contain milk in addition to the other required meal components. If the school participates in OVS, the student has the option to decline milk. Whenever choices are available, meal identification signs that instruct students on how much food may be selected from each meal component are required (7 CFR 210.10(a)(2)). Commercially packaged water and potable water should not be made available in any manner that interferes with selection of components of the reimbursable meal, including low-fat or fat-free milk.