



Whole Grain-Rich and 1% Flavored Milk Exemption In School Years (SY) 2017-2018

Child Nutrition Programs
Teaching and Learning Support
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Sponsor Name: _____

The implementation of the whole grain-rich requirement was phased in over a period of three SYs. Half of the grains offered in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) were required to be at least whole grain-rich effective July 1, 2012 (SY 2012-2013). Half of the grains offered in the SBP were required to be at least whole grain-rich effective July 1, 2013 (SY 2013-2014). All grains offered in the NSLP and SBP were required to be at least whole grain-rich effective July 1, 2014 (SY 2014-2015).

The progression to offer all whole grain-rich grains in school meals represents a significant transition for industry, program operators, and students. The authority provided to Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) in Public Law 113-235 offers us to allow the opportunity to provide School Food Authorities (SFAs) that demonstrate hardship in procuring specific whole grain-rich products the ability to seek exemptions for one or more products. CNP may approve an SFA’s exemption request for specific products if the SFA can demonstrate hardship(s) in procuring, preparing, or serving compliant whole grain-rich products that are accepted by students. The temporary exemptions are allowed for any type of grain product(s), (e.g., pasta, bread, brown rice, etc.) and for one or more different products.

SFAs granted an exemption must work with CNP to search for acceptable products, and must comply with the SY 2013-2014 requirement to offer at least half of the grains as whole grain-rich products. This exemption if approved will only allow the use of these specific products to be replaced with a non-whole grain-rich product. All other menued grain products must meet the whole grain-rich criteria.

Finally, under Section 747(c) of the Appropriations Act, through SY 2017-2018, State agencies have the discretion to grant SFAs exemptions allowing service of low-fat (1-percent milk fat), flavored milk through the NSLP and the SBP and as a competitive food available for sale on campus during the school day. In order to qualify for the exemption, schools must demonstrate hardship by documenting a reduction in student milk consumption or an increase in school milk waste.

PLEASE PROVIDE THIS PRODUCT SHEET AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION FOR EACH PRODUCT YOU WISH TO RECEIVE AN EXEMPTION FOR

The above SFA requests approval to be exempt for SY2017-2018 for the following Product:

Specific Product Name: _____ *(must provide supporting documentation for approval)*

Check all that apply:

Financial hardship:

- SFAs records provided to the SA demonstrate a significant drop in meal counts after the whole grain-rich product(s) were offered, *(provide last year meal count vs. current year meal count reflective of the same menu, but with whole grain-rich product added)* or
- SFAs experienced a significant cost increase when procuring the whole grain-rich product(s). *(provide invoices or purchase orders reflecting increase cost from last year vs. current year)*

Limited product availability:

- SFA does not have access to a compliant whole grain-rich product(s) in the local market and would like to offer enriched grain item(s) temporarily. *(submit vendor lists of whole grain-rich products available to your district or lack of)*

Unacceptable product quality:

- The whole grain-rich product(s) offered by the SFA did not retain the desired texture or lost palatability during the typical holding time. *(submit photos of product quality)*

Poor student acceptability:

- The whole grain-rich product(s) offered by the SFA received significant negative student/parent feedback or there was increased plate waste of that menu item when the whole grain-rich product(s) was offered multiple times and over a sustained period of time. *(submit student/parent feedback surveys or comments sheets)*

Authorized Representative or Food Service Director

Printed Name	Signature	Date
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Return the completed form to Child Nutrition Programs via email or fax:

Email: Elizabeth.seitz@alaska.gov or Fax: 907-465-8910

The above SFA requests approval to be exempt for SY2017-2018 for the following Product:

Specific Product Name: Low-fat (1% milk fat), flavored milk *(must provide supporting documentation for approval)*

Check all the hardships that apply:

Financial hardship:

- SFAs records provided a significant decrease in milk sales since implementation of the current meal patterns *(provide last year milk counts vs. current year milk counts reflective of when the milk was changed to fat-free); or*
- SFAs experienced a significant decline in milk sales despite offering alternative products and brands *(provide last year milk counts vs. current year milk counts reflective of when the milk was changed to fat-free or other milk type);*
- SFAs indicating significant waste of fluid milk *(provide weight analysis or submit photos of milk waste)*

Poor student acceptability:

- SFAs received significant negative feedback from students and parents regarding lack of availability of low-fat, flavored milk *(submit student feedback surveys or comments sheets); or*
- Significant negative feedback from students regarding the palatability of fat-free, flavored milk. *(submit student/parent feedback surveys or comments sheets)*

Authorized Representative or Food Service Director

Printed Name	Signature	Date
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For CNP Use Only

Date Received: _____ Date Approved: _____ CNP Staff Initials: _____