



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
*DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION*



**TO:** Sponsors of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs

**FROM:** Cheryl Resha, Education Manager *Cheryl Resha*  
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

**DATE:** March 2, 2012

**SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum #13-12**  
Frozen Fruit Products and Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs

The final rule published on January 26, 2012, requires that frozen fruit served in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) contains no added sugar beginning in school year (SY) 2012-13. Since 2009, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has reduced the amount of added sugars in packing media for frozen fruits offered to states; however, most of the frozen strawberries, peaches and apricots offered by the USDA currently contain added sugars.

The new regulation allows for a water (unsweetened) or juice-only frozen fruit pack. However, to provide state agencies and school food authorities (SFAs) with time to use existing inventories, and to recognize the time needed for industry to reformulate and to pack new frozen fruit products, schools may continue to serve frozen fruit with added sugar in the NSLP for SY 2012-13.

This exemption applies to products acquired through USDA Foods as well as those purchased commercially and is for school year 2012-13 only. Beginning July 1, 2013, all frozen fruit served in the NSLP must contain no added sugars.

The USDA also currently offers unsweetened frozen fruits, and encourages states and SFAs to order those products. Additionally, the USDA is working with industry to ensure that all frozen fruits offered through USDA Foods will be unsweetened or juice pack products available for schools to order for SY 2013-14.

Questions may be directed to:

| <i>COUNTIES</i>                                      | <i>CONSULTANT</i> | <i>E-MAIL</i>  | <i>PHONE</i> |
|--|-------------------|--|--------------|
| <b>Hartford and Windham</b>                          | Teri Dandeneau    | <a href="mailto:teri.dandeneau@ct.gov">teri.dandeneau@ct.gov</a>   | 860-807-2079 |
| <b>Litchfield, Middlesex and Tolland</b>             | Fionnuala Brown   | <a href="mailto:fionnuala.brown@ct.gov">fionnuala.brown@ct.gov</a> | 860-807-2129 |
| <b>Fairfield and New London</b>                      | Jackie Schipke    | <a href="mailto:jackie.schipke@ct.gov">jackie.schipke@ct.gov</a>   | 860-807-2123 |
| <b>New Haven (Towns/Cities beginning with A – M)</b> | Jackie Schipke    | <a href="mailto:jackie.schipke@ct.gov">jackie.schipke@ct.gov</a>   | 860-807-2123 |
| <b>New Haven (Towns/Cities beginning with N – W)</b> | Teri Dandeneau    | <a href="mailto:teri.dandeneau@ct.gov">teri.dandeneau@ct.gov</a>   | 860-807-2079 |

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Attachment