

**School Lunch Advisory Council (SLAC)
Meeting Notes – January 10, 2020**

Attendees:

NYS Office of General Services (OGS) Foods Distribution:

Maureen Barbic
Debbie Hesch
Barbara Marshall
Gabrielle Viens
Anja Allnach

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Matthew Chotkowski, Food and Nutrition Services (FNS), Northeast Regional Office

SLAC Area Representatives

Area A - Karen Bronson-Clark, Food Service Director, School #1 BOCES
Area C - Tami Augugliaro, Food Service Director, Lancaster Central School
Area D - Kim Corcoran, Food Service Director, DCMO BOCES
Area E - Chris Whitmore, Food Service Director, Rome City School District
Area F - Dave Gravlin, Food Service Director, Potsdam Central School
Area G - Michael Robinson, Food Service Director, New Paltz Central School District
Area J - Lisa Ostrowski, Food Service Director, North Colonie Central School District
Area K – Regina Dunne, Food Service Director, Smithtown Central School District
Area L - Brian Wright, School Lunch Director, Baldwinsville Central School District
NYC – Anne O'Donnell, Director of Supply Chain Management, Office of Food & Nutrition Services

NYS Education Department (SED) – Child Nutrition Program Administration

Raemie Swain
Nicole Travis
Kristin Junco

New York School Nutrition Association (SNA)

Jennifer Martin

NYS Education Department

1. Please comment on SNAP and its effect on students who may not be receiving benefits any longer. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/pressrelease/fns-001519> It is believed that the analysis “shows that potentially as many as 982,000 children would no longer be directly certified for free school meals based on SNAP participation. I understand the thought behind it. Supplemental nutrition is for those in need.

A. At this point, OTDA doesn't have concrete impact numbers and we don't have data on how this will affect schools.

2. I would also like to know if there would ever be a chance that they would bring back the option of 2 percent milk for the kids, since we can only offer skim and 1 percent milk my milk consumption has dropped dramatically. I tried an experiment and bought a case of 2 percent one time and that case of milk was gone in no time. If 2% milk is not coming back, why not, please explain.

A. USDA does not allow 2% milk. Be careful with experimenting with foods outside of the meal pattern as meal pattern requirements were not being met when you provided 2% milk.

3. Wellness Policy: All schools were required to develop a local school wellness policy and have it in place by July 1, 2017. Schools must assess their policy once every 3 years. The first triennial assessment must be completed by June 30, 2020.

We have a Local School Wellness Policy and Assessment power point available on our website to assist schools in conducting the required assessment. We also have a NYS Wellness Policy Assessment Tool to assess compliance with specific components of the local wellness policies as well as several other resources available on our website.

4. Equipment Grant: The application deadline is January 24th, 2020. The Questions period has closed, so for the time being we are no longer accepting questions about the application. The Q & A was posted January 2nd and the deadline for The Notice of Intent to apply is due today (1/10/2020). It can be emailed to foodequip@nysed.gov.

5. 30%: We are finishing up our last 30% review. We will be meeting with Ag and Markets and other stakeholders in a couple of weeks to discuss how this first year went, things we saw on reviews, common errors and so on.

6. December Open Enrollment: The current RA application open enrollment period is December 1, 2019- February 1, 2020. All applications should be requested through the new application request form which can be found under NSLP and SBP update sections on the webpage.

7. And Justice for All...Posters: The new "And Justice for All" posters are now available. Our support staff had started to send poster prior to December 18th to the largest school districts. You may request poster on the order form or if your SFA is up for review your CN rep can bring posters to your site review.

New York School Nutrition Association (SNA)

Upcoming Events:

January 27-28, 2020	NYSNA Legislative Action Conference, Albany, NY
February 26, 2020	FOCUS Deadline (2020 Spring Issue)
April 22, 2020	FOCUS Deadline (2020 Summer Issue)
May 12-14, 2020	New York School Nutrition Industry Conference, Cooperstown, NY
July 22, 2020	FOCUS Deadline (2020 Fall Issue)
October 16-17, 2020	NYSNA Annual Conference, Syracuse, NY

2019 Annual Conference Recap

- Conference was a success
- New One day exhibit show was a success
- 2020 conference will take place in Syracuse October 16-17 at the OnCenter – with the Marriott serving as the HQ hotel

2019 Regional Industry Seminars Recap

- Had new venue used for Long Island that was so well received we are in the process of signing a 2-year contract
- 2019 Program: No official presentations, but as promised, we had all state agencies available 1 hour prior to exhibits to assist attendees with program questions/technical assistance.
- Programming: For 2020 we will have an informal panel discussion so state agencies can answer questions from attendees collectively and we will also provide a table near registration for state agencies – this will provide another opportunity for attendees to ask specific questions
 - Not a formal "presentation" – this is more of a Q&A session
 - This is an opportunity to ask questions if needed, or you may just skip session and attend food show
- Reminder that there will NOT be a Syracuse RIS for December 2020 as we will be in Syracuse in October. Members may attend any of the other shows if they need more time after the conference.

2020 Legislative Action Conference

January 27-28 in Albany at the Hilton downtown

Legislative Agenda Items:

Ask #1: Increase the poverty threshold for reduced-price meals from 185% to 200%, as part of the final 2020-21 State Budget

- With an increased threshold, 19,000 more children will qualify for reduced-price meals.
- This number does not include students in New York City, nor those students in school districts that are participating in the Community Eligible Provision.

- The Head Start and TANF programs already use this 200% level. And effective 2019, eligibility guidelines concerning TEFAP were updated to at or below 200% of the federal income poverty levels, up from 185%

Ask #2: Transfer the Child Nutrition Program (CNP) from the New York State Education Department (SED) to the New York Department of Agriculture & Markets.

- The CNP is administered via the USDA and is more in line with the work that Ag. & Markets already does.
- Due to SED's size and necessary emphasis on education programs, as opposed to lunch and food programs, the CNP can sometimes get overlooked.
- In addition to working directly with New York's food producers, Ag. & Markets already coordinates several school food-related committees, such as the New York School Milk Task Force, the New York State Farm to School Coordinating Committee, and takes the lead on the Governor's Council on Hunger and Food Policy.
- Farm to School Grants available through NYS Dept of Ag & Markets
- Four states, Florida, Nevada, New Jersey, and Texas already administer and oversee the CNP through their Agriculture & Markets agencies.
- These states have reported that the CNP is a greater priority under their Agriculture and Markets agencies, which has helped enhance connections with farmers and solve various distribution challenges.

Conference Agenda Breakout Workshops:

- Procurement
- Website Navigation and Training
- Administrative Reviews
- Guidance for NY 30% program

Registration deadline is January 15th

NYSNA SCHOOL NUTRITION INDUSTRY CONFERENCE (SNIC)

We are excited to formally announce our new NYSNA SNIC taking place May 12-14 in Cooperstown! This event will take place every other year (even numbered years) in the spring. This conference will be smaller and provide a more intimate setting than our annual conferences, which is beneficial for more networking and interaction with our industry partners. This program will also help bridge the gap between our regional industry seminars in December and our annual conference the following October.

USDA, Food and Nutrition Services, Northeast Regional Office

-Trade Mitigation-no word about it continuing for schools as of today

OGS Food Distribution

- The Area A contract for storage and distribution of USDA Foods was awarded to Palmer Foodservice Inc. Palmer is expected to start deliveries on January 13, 2020. Area A currently also has three extra commodities available via Survey Monkeys (Diced Chicken, Canned Peaches, and Canned Corn).
- The Area C contract for storage and distribution of USDA Foods was awarded to J & L Ice. J & L Ice has already begun to deliver to Area C schools in December. Area C currently also has extra commodities available via Survey Monkeys (Cheese, Chicken, Fruits and Vegetables).
- The Redistribution of commodities concerning the events happening in Area A and Area C is complete.
- The two items available through Trade Mitigation-Canned Applesauce and Unseasoned Chicken Strips-have been pushed back due to lack of orders.
- OGS Food Distribution applied for and received State Administrative Expense (SAE) reallocated funding to implement a Food Distribution Inventory Management System. We worked with ITS for over a year on system requirements. An RFP was issued, and a contract was awarded to Colyar Technology Solutions (CTS). Their off the shelf system is being modified to meet our needs. We will test the system and provide training to schools (webinars and in-person training). The anticipated Go Live date is November 2020. This will change the way we manage USDA Foods. The Food Preference Survey and ordering will all be done in the new system. Schools will still order USDA

Foods in February/March, but you will see your USDA Food inventory when it arrives at the distributor. Schools will also use the system to choose the number of cases you want to receive on your next delivery from your state contracted distributor. WBSCM will only be used to retrieve historical data for the next three years.

AREA A

1. Who is training new warehouse on procedures? Distributor is asking questions from us that should be SOP for any OGS warehouse? Makes me wonder how smooth this will go.

A: Distributor was asking about delivery locations.

2. We heard a lot from Distributor in December but we have heard nothing else. Are we getting our USDA Food in January?

A: Yes. OGS has worked with distributor for a schedule and delivery start time. They will be reaching out to schools to provide a delivery schedule.

3. My question would be when will deliveries be starting back for Area A? Has a warehouse been found and will we be receiving large deliveries to try and get all of our food at once?

A: Deliveries will be starting Monday, January 13, 2020.

4. What and when is the plan for brown box commodities and how are they going to handle the fact that we may not be able to take our full entitlement as we do not have the storage in our districts?

A: Schools must accept delivery of USDA Food within 60 days. If you do not have adequate storage, contact OGS Food Distribution.

5. Can't wait to get brown box again. Any word on the start up date?

A: Deliveries will be starting Monday, January 13, 2020.

6. Will we get all the brown box we didn't receive in October-December?

A: Yes, October in March/April will have November and December, and January deliveries will be in January

AREA C

1. How much product is in our warehouse for our district?

A: There are things they are supposed to be getting it, but the warehouse is saying that they do not have it/are not getting it. We will be sending out contact information to the distributor so they can work it out with the schools for a better understanding.

2. Can we stagger our delivery so we don't get slammed in one month? Who is our contact person for our warehouse?

A: Schools must accept delivery of USDA Food within 60 days. If you do not have adequate storage, contact OGS Food Distribution.

3. Will we be getting all the items we ordered for this year or has some been sent back?

A: Yes, you should be.

4. Abbreviations what do they mean?

A: ZREQ, ZRCR, etc.-Schools can ignore that column/those abbreviations, it is unnecessary for them.

5. Menu planning when will we begin to see the rest of the school year so we can plan our menus accordingly?

A: Hopefully by the end of January when the whole school year will be redistributed.

6. Are we getting cash for the product that we will not be receiving in 2019-2020 or how will we be compensated?

A: No, you will not be getting cash. Yes, you will be getting Entitlement credit back + Survey Monkeys/DoD/Pilot. Entitlement rollover for Area A and C, if they have it to rollover.

7. Sweeping accounts is it really fair to sweep them when we don't know if we will be getting commodities ... and can they let us know any excess in banks so we can take advantage of other

processing?

A: Schools must provide a detailed plan to prevent the sweep. Processors are not tied to the warehouse, so this should not affect getting diverted commodities.

8. Lack of communication from our new distributor of commodities in Area C. We are used to the previous distributor who was very communicative the new distributor is not.

A: AI is working at the Area C warehouse now, Tami is pleased as AI seems to communicate.

AREA D

No questions/comments received from this Area.

AREA E

1. Possibility of more fruit cups (not frozen), instead of the number 10 cans, as it would be nice to have food pre-portioned?

A: OGS sent this to USDA for Feedback. We are waiting for a response.

2. Delivery from distributor (except for one time) has not been before 3:00pm at all this year. Always received delivery between 3:30 pm-4 pm when all kitchen staff is already gone for the day. The night custodians have been taking the delivery which makes them upset. It will not be accepted/will be refused if it comes after 3 pm anymore (the superintendent ended up letting them in and accepting the product once).

A: This is the first delivery time complaint we have received. We will be reaching out to Robin.

AREA F

1. A CACFP school has lost out on entitlement due to cancellation of food items. They're a small not-for-profit. Is this happening because Glazier is now the warehouse instead of Sysco? Why is this happening and is this likely to happen in the future? Also dates that were put down for delivery are not in alignment with when Glazier receives them. Concerned about having only 60 days, then, to get them or lose them. The difference in dates are causing storage issues. Why are the delivery dates not being taken into consideration?

A: This CACFP FSD is new. Cancelled items are due to being over entitlement. Their meal count went down, so entitlement went down. They didn't order TM due to not understanding, however never called OGS. School is confused about cancellation still? OGS will need to request delivery slips. Cancelled items showing up with delivery dates saying CACFP. OGS will need to look into it.

AREA G

1. WBSCM confusion. Req Status report shows a different number of cases than Shipment Notification Report. Ex.) Status says 7 cases, but shipment says 5 cases.

A: OGS will have to look into it.

2. Who notifies who uses for ProcessorLink?

A: Fee for service vs. NOI-not showing up. Always talk to the broker first. The Distributor does not touch Fee for Service things. Whoever you pay your bill to is who you contact when it's Fee For Service.

AREA J

1. There are still delivery issues, concerning items missing from deliveries, as well as deliveries still coming late (usually after 4:30pm)

A: Sysco hired 16 new drivers-working out alternatives in case the delivery was going to be late-We encourage schools to notify OGS if Sysco does not improve. (after 12/19/19 meeting at Sysco)

AREA K/W

1. Where is the peanut butter and beef crumbles? There is very little variety to choose from, as well as the fact that "the tuna is awful and shouldn't be offered".

A: Peanut Butter is not sent to Area K as schools do not order it/does not move, so no quantity was sent there (also didn't rank high on Area K's FSP). Kindly submit commodity complaint about why Tuna was "awful".

AREA L

1. Big Apple continues to be a great partner.

2. I sent an email to OGS requesting that they not sweep my accounts to the 40% as I have plans to use this over the next 6 months. When I did this I received an email back requiring me to send them a “detailed plan” of how I am going to use this. Can you please ask since when was this required and why we need to submit a “detailed plan” and if they want this they need to be able to explain what they want in the “detailed plan”.

A: You will be notified 1/15/2020

NYC Board of Education –

1. Problem with carrots and sweet potatoes (couldn't get/not available)

A: Both had crop issues-Ordering canned carrots (low sodium)

2. USDA production dates need a clear decoding guide. NYC needs expiration dates for record keeping.

A: Julian Code guide needed?

3. USDA Product Information Sheets needs a Shelf Life specification

4. All canned fruit (excluding applesauce) is now unsweetened/no longer with no high fructose corn syrup?

A: We will need to check into it.

Discussion Question

1. Can we move the meeting next year to coincide with the SNA conference since OGS and Area Representatives are all attending SNA?

A. For further discussion at the May meeting.

School Year 2019-20 SLAC Final Meeting Date

o Friday, May 15, 2020