United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Consumer Service
Mountain Plains Region
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Reply to Attn. of: SP 97-14
CACFP-501
SFSP-308

Subject: Grains/Breads Requirement

To: STATE AGENCY DIRECTORS - (Child Nutrition Programs) Colorado ED, Colorado DPHE, Colorado DHS, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri ED, Missouri DH, Montana OPI, Montana DPHHS, Nebraska ED, Nebraska SS, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming ED, and Wyoming DHSS

As you know, there have been several questions raised regarding one-quarter (1/4) of a serving of the grains/breads component due to information received at the School Meals Initiative (SMI) Training in January 1996. We passed on the questions and issues to Headquarters and believe that these questions have now been answered in the Grains/Breads Instruction 783-1, Revision 2.

The Instruction states that "one-quarter (1/4) of a serving is the smallest amount allowable to be credited toward the minimum quantities of grains/breads specified in program regulations." We interpret this to mean that at least one full bread serving must be taken by a child in order for that meal to be reimbursable. See the following examples:

Example 1 – The menu offers a 2-ounce roll and a piece of pie which contains ¼ serving. In order for the grains/breads component to be satisfied, the child would be required to take the 2-ounce roll. Of course, the child could take the piece of pie and the meal still be reimbursable as long as there are at least three other items taken by the child as required under Offer vs. Serve.

Example 2 - The menu offers a 1-ounce roll, a cookie containing ½ serving of grains/breads, and rice contributing ½ serving of grains/breads. In order for the grains/breads component to be satisfied, the child could either take the 1-ounce roll alone; the 1-ounce roll plus one or both of the other two choices; or the cookie and the rice. A child could not take the cookie alone or the rice alone and have it count as meeting the requirement for grains/breads.

As you can see from the examples, a full serving of grains/breads must be on a child's plate if it is to be counted as satisfying the grains/breads component. One-quarter (1/4) serving is the minimum allowed for crediting when determining the required number of grains/breads serving offered over a school week. However, one quarter (1/4) serving or anything less than one full serving is not sufficient in fulfilling the grains/breads component for a reimbursable meal.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of my staff at (303) 844-0355.

Ann C. DeGroat

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Child Nutrition Programs