

# WHAT'S NEW WITH SCHOOL NUTRITION

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM APRIL 2017

TOPICS INCLUDE: UNPAID MEAL PRICES AND SODIUM REQUIREMENTS

## **Q1: When will the What's New Webinar for March be posted?**

**A1:** The Power Point with slides with notes have been posted to the DPI Training page.

## **Q2: Any update on sodium requirements for SY17-18?**

**A2:** On January 6, 2017 the USDA published [SP 15-2017](#), Flexibility for the Target 2 Sodium Requirements for School year 2017-2018. It announced that due to the research cited for the 2015 Dietary Guidelines, published in January 2016, there is sufficient evidence that the reduction of sodium is beneficial for children and thus satisfies the appropriations directive.

School Food Authorities that are prepared to meet or have already begun to meet Target 2 requirements are encouraged to begin or continue implementation during School Year 2017-2018. However, for SY 2017-2018, SFAs that are working toward compliance with Target 2 but not yet fully in compliance will not incur fiscal action during administrative reviews.

If you are looking for ways to decrease the sodium in your menus please consider attending our "Sodium Alert: Menu Targets are Decreasing" breakout at the Annual School Nutrition Association meeting in La Crosse and/or attend one of our new 'Sodium' School Nutrition Summer Development Courses (SNSDC) this summer. Registration and information can be found on our training page: <https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/training>. USDA has also provided a useful online resource called "What's Shaking?" at <https://healthymeals.fns.usda.gov/whatsshaking>.

## **Q3: So do I understand correctly we can claim these free meals served to students whose accounts are closed? By closed, I mean students who are above the negative threshold for lunch accounts. Do we claim them as a normal paid meal?**

**A3:** Reimbursable alternate meals served to students with unpaid balances may be claimed in the reduced or paid category depending on student eligibility. We are currently seeking clarification from the USDA on the ability of food service to absorb these reimbursable meal costs, but it is our current understanding that food service may not absorb these costs.