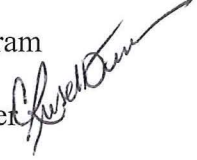




STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**TO:** Superintendents of Schools  
Participating in the National School Lunch Program

**FROM:** Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief Operating Officer 

**DATE:** June 11, 2015

**SUBJECT:** 2015-16 Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement

This memo summarizes the requirements for submitting the annual HFC Statement to the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE). It also provides information on the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and HFC resources.

### Annual HFC Statement

Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) requires that each local board of education or governing authority for Connecticut public school districts participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) must **take action annually** to certify whether all food items sold to students **will or will not** meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards. Public school districts include all regional educational service centers (RESC), the Connecticut Technical High School System, charter schools, interdistrict magnet schools and endowed academies.

Under C.G.S. Section 10-215b, districts that certify for the healthy food option must follow the Connecticut Nutrition Standards (see page 2) for all food items sold to students separately from a reimbursable breakfast or lunch. These food items include food offered for sale to students at all times in all schools and from all sources including, but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias and any fundraising activities on school premises. Districts that opt for HFC receive 10 cents per lunch, based on the total number of reimbursable lunches (paid, free and reduced-price) served in the district's NSLP in the prior school year.

The HFC application materials are available on the CSDE's [Application Forms for Healthy Food Certification](#) Web page. Additional guidance, resources and a PowerPoint presentation on the application procedures are also available. Interested school districts should review these materials and meet with the appropriate individuals responsible for the school food service program, school stores, vending machines, culinary arts programs and fundraising activities to ensure that all criteria will be followed.

All public school districts participating in the National School Lunch Program must complete the HFC Statement – *Addendum to Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs* (ED-099). Districts that certify for the healthy food option must also complete the District Contact and Information Sheet. **Given the delayed notification regarding the HFC process for school year 2015-16, and the required approval by local boards of education, the CSDE has extended the July 1, 2015, HFC application deadline to September 30, 2015.** However, districts are encouraged to submit their approved HFC Statement as soon as possible. These forms must be returned to the

Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457.

### **Interschool Agreements for HFC Schools**

A public school or district (recipient site) that receives meals under contract from a HFC district (providing sponsor) can choose to certify for the healthy food option and follow the Connecticut Nutrition Standards. This must be indicated on the interschool agreement between the recipient site and the providing sponsor district. In order for the sponsoring district to receive HFC payments for any recipient sites, the interschool agreement must be submitted to the CSDE by **August 15, 2015**. The interschool agreements for school year 2015-16 are available on the CSDE's [Forms for School Nutrition Programs](#) Web page.

### **Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS)**

A summary of the CNS is available in the CSDE's handout, [Summary of Connecticut Nutrition Standards for Foods in Schools](#). Additional information on the Connecticut Nutrition Standards is available on the CSDE's [Connecticut Nutrition Standards](#) Web page. The CSDE's [Healthy Food Certification](#) Web page provides numerous resources to assist districts with implementing HFC including:

- Questions and Answers on Connecticut Statutes for School Food and Beverages;
- Fundraising with Food and Beverages;
- Requirements for Food and Beverages in Vending Machines;
- Requirements for Food and Beverages in School Stores; and
- Ensuring District Compliance with Healthy Food Certification.

### **State Beverage Requirements**

As a reminder, the beverage requirements of C.G.S. Section 10-221q **apply to all public schools**, regardless of whether the district certifies for the healthy food option under C.G.S. Section 10-215f. This includes all public school districts, interdistrict magnet schools, charter schools, endowed academies and the Connecticut Technical High School System. Additional information on the beverage requirements is available on the CSDE's [Beverage Requirements](#) Web page.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Susan Fiore at 860-807-2075 or [susan.fiore@ct.gov](mailto:susan.fiore@ct.gov) or Teri Dandeneau at 860-807-2079 or [teri.dandeneau@ct.gov](mailto:teri.dandeneau@ct.gov).

CRT:sff

cc: Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner of Education  
School Food Service Directors  
Business Managers