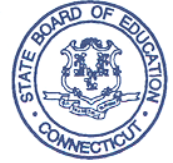




STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**TO:** Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Sponsors

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

**DATE:** June 8, 2011

**SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum #10C-11 and #13H-11  
Water Availability in the Child and Adult Care Food Program**

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (the Act), Public Law 111-296 establishes a requirement to make potable water available to children in the CACFP. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance on the implementation of this provision.

Child care centers, family day care homes, emergency shelters and at-risk afterschool care centers participating in the CACFP must make drinking water available to children, as nutritionally appropriate. Throughout the day (including mealtimes), water must be made available to children to drink upon their request. Facilities can also choose to make water available for children to self-serve, for example:

- providing disposable cups near sinks that are available to children, with a step stool if children are unable to reach the sink; and
- providing covered water pitchers and disposable cups if water fountains are not available.

**While drinking water must be made available to children during mealtimes, it is not part of the reimbursable meal or snack and cannot be served instead of fluid milk. Additionally, if juice is served as one of the two required snack components, water cannot be served as a choice instead of juice.**

Caregivers should not serve young children too much water before and during mealtimes. Excess water may reduce the amount of food and milk consumed by the children. Facilities should serve water with snacks when no other beverage is being served. Water should also be made available instead of high-calorie, sweetened beverages (such as juice drinks, soda and sports drinks) that are served outside mealtimes.

If safe water is not readily available in a facility, purchasing water for children is considered a reasonable and allowable cost for CACFP facilities. However, purchasing water for adult or employee consumption is not an allowable cost.

For questions about this information, please contact:

**Day Care Center Sponsors**  
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Celia Cordero, 860-807-2076  
Benedict Onye, 860-807-2080

**Day Care Home Sponsors**  
Celia Cordero, 860-807-2076

CR: sff

Important: This is a numbered Operational Memorandum that contains important program information. Please read carefully and retain in a binder for your future reference. Operational Memoranda are also posted on the Child Nutrition Web site at:  
<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2626&q=321576>