



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

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Alexandria, VA  
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SUBJECT: Separation of Vegetables/Fruits in the *Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs*

TO: Regional Directors  
Special Nutrition Programs  
All Regions

State Directors  
Child Nutrition Programs  
All States

The *Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs* final rule was published on January 26, 2012. The final rule requires that fruits and vegetables be offered as separate meal components in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. This provision requires schools to offer all the vegetable subgroups identified by the 2010 *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* over the course of the week in minimum required quantities as part of the lunch menus effective July 1, 2012 (School Year 2012-2013).

The revised Vegetables and Fruits Section addresses the new meal pattern requirements for the school meal programs by separating the section into two distinct subsections: Vegetables and Fruits. In addition, the revised vegetable subsection labels each vegetable with its appropriate vegetable subgroup (red/orange, dark green, beans & peas, starchy, or other) to assist school food authorities with meeting the new meal pattern. The revised Vegetables and Fruits Section of the *Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs* can be accessed online: <http://www.teamnutrition.usda.gov/resources/foodbuyingguide.html>

School food authorities should contact their State agencies for additional information. State agencies may direct any questions concerning this guidance to the appropriate Food and Nutrition Service Regional Office.

Cindy Long  
Director  
Child Nutrition Division

Attachment