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To: Authorized Representatives of Child Nutrition Programs
National School Lunch

Date: August 10, 2017

Subject: Donated Food Uses

Memo Number: SNP 210-1

This memo replaces the previous memo on this topic, memo numbers: NSLP-55. The purpose of this memo is to provide guidance on the use of commodities and school lunch foods in the National School Lunch Program. Questions about this memo can be referred to a SD Dept. of Education Child and Adult Nutrition Services staff member.

Use of Commodities and School Lunch Foods

Questions often occur as to the use of commodities in conjunction with meals or activities outside of the noon meal to students. Since the commodity allocation is made on the number of approved lunches served to children, such commodities should be used so far as is practicable for the purpose of preparing components of those meals.

The simplest rule of thumb is that commodities may be used for only those meals (breakfast, lunch, and snack) which are served to students as part of the school day. A school may use its commodities for informal breakfast program or ala carte sales to students and school personnel if the revenue from those sales accrue entirely to the school lunch fund. One example would be the sale of cookies, bars, or rolls using commodity flour and shortening.

Federal regulation allows schools to cater additional meal services with all funds accruing to the school lunch fund. State statute permits school food service extension to congregate feeding of the elderly. Any additional meal service must be self-sufficient, that is, not be supported by school food service funds.

Meals prepared with commodities for students may also be served to adults other than school employees as a special rather than regular occurrence for purposes such as parent/student involvement. Any outside school hours meal (other than snacks in an approved program after school) should not contain commodities, and the meal expense must always be reimbursed to the school food service fund. This would refer to catering.

Commodities may be released to home economics classes for teaching and demonstration purposes. Whether this is done is a school food authority decision depending on the availability of commodities and the financial impact on the school lunch funds.