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**Montana
Office of Public Instruction**
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

Office of Public Instruction
P.O. Box 202501
Helena, MT, 59620-2501
(406) 444-3095
(888) 231-9393
(406) 444-0169 (TTY)
opi.mt.gov

DATE: January 2010

TO: School Food Authority Administrators and Food Service Managers

FROM: Christine Emerson, Director
School Nutrition Programs

SUBJECT: Student Workers/Helpers in the School Food Service

The option of whether or not to allow student workers or helpers in the school food service is a decision to be made by each individual school food authority. School Nutrition Programs encourages school food authorities to allow students to work or help in the school food service to provide opportunities related to learning about the food service operation and gaining job experience. All students involved in the operation of the food service should be trained to comply with the sanitation and health standards established under state and local law and regulations, and schools should be aware of any state or local laws or regulations regarding child labor. Duties appropriate for students include assisting to serve meals to other students and helping to sanitize dining area tables.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations do not specifically address the use of student workers or helpers. However, under 7 CFR 210.12, "School food authorities shall promote activities to involve students and parents in the Program. Such activities may include menu planning, enhancement of the eating environment, Program promotion, and related student community support activities. School food authorities are encouraged to use the school food service program to teach students about good nutrition practices and to involve the school faculty and the general community in activities to enhance the program."

If you have questions, please contact School Nutrition Programs at (406) 444-2501.