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TO: School Food Authority Administrators and Food Service Managers

FROM: Christine Emerson, Director
School Nutrition Programs

SUBJECT: School Food Service Area Definition

Under 7 CFR 210.11 (b) of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and 7 CFR 220.12 (a) of the School Breakfast Program (SBP), no foods of minimal nutritional value shall be sold in the food service areas during the lunch or breakfast periods.

A food service area is defined as an area where reimbursable meals under the NSLP or SBP are either served or eaten. The entire room in which reimbursable meals are served to children and eaten constitutes the food service area. If children are served reimbursable meals in one room then go to another room where they are to eat their meals, each room is considered a food service area.

A separate area in which foods of minimal nutritional value may be sold may not be created “outside” of the food service area by markings on the floor, or use of barrier devices, or portable partitions, etc.

The intent of the regulations on the sale of foods of minimal nutritional value is to protect the nutritional integrity of school meals. School Nutrition Programs highly recommends that all foods sold in school be those that will contribute to the health and well-being of Montana school children. Schools should consider their own school wellness policy when making decisions on what types of foods to offer on school premises.

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