



Nutrition and Wellness Programs Child Nutrition Programs E-mail Alert

March 26, 2015

School Nutrition Programs: Exemption from School Meals' Whole Grain-Rich Requirements for SY2014-2015 and SY2015-2016

Request for Information from Illinois Schools

The current whole grain rich requirement for school meals is that ALL grain products offered in the school meal programs must contain at least 50 percent whole-grain meal and/or flour. The remaining 50 percent or less of grains, if any, must be enriched. Foods containing between 50 and 100 percent whole grains are allowable. Schools are not required to offer 100 percent whole grain products.

On February 10, 2015 the USDA issued a policy memo, SP 20-2015 titled [*Request for Exemption from the School Meals' Whole Grain-Rich Requirement for School Years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016*](#). If Illinois were to offer this exemption and an SFA petitions for and is approved for such exemption, the school/district must comply with the SY2013-2014 requirement to offer at least half of the grains as whole-grain-rich product.

The Illinois State Board of Education, Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division would like your feedback to determine if there is a need to offer this exemption in Illinois schools, with the current limitations from USDA. Please take a few minutes to complete an [online survey](#). Responses will be collected through the end of April 2015.