



State of New Jersey

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Date: June 10, 2014

To: Public and Non-Public Local Education Agencies (LEAs)
Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCIs)

From: Arleen Ramos-Szatmary, Coordinator 
School Nutrition Programs

Subject: Extending Flexibility for Whole Grain-Rich Pasta in School Year 2014-2015 and
2015-2016

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued memo SP 47-2014 *Flexibility for Whole Grain-Rich Pasta in School Years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016*, which addresses the required Whole Grain-Rich (WGR) pasta requirement that will become effective on July 1, 2014 and the hardships LEAs have had in implementing these new requirements. As such, FNS is prepared to offer continued flexibility in this area for those LEAs that are granted **state approval**.

This flexibility is **only for WGR pasta** and is only offered for the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years or until acceptable products are identified and made available and while the LEA can demonstrate a continued negative impact. LEAs that have been **approved by the state agency** to offer non-whole-grain rich pastas will be considered compliant with the WGR requirements during an Administrative Review.

In order to request state approval, the LEA must submit the **Waiver Request to Delay Use of Whole Grain Rich Pasta (Form #45, available in SNEARS)** to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Division of Food and Nutrition. The waiver must provide evidence that an attempt was made to use the WGR pasta with negative outcomes.

Please email your waiver request with the name of the LEA, the agreement # and "WGR Pasta Waiver Request" in the subject line to: **SNPspecialprojects@ag.state.nj.us**

Upon approval, waiver requests only need to be submitted once. LEAs must inform the state agency if there are any changes to the waiver request as appropriate.