Date: April 2, 2024

Memo code: TA 02-2024

Subject: Twenty-seventh Release of the Child Nutrition Database

To: Regional Directors, Child Nutrition Programs, All Regions

State Directors, Child Nutrition Programs, All States

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform State and Regional Directors that the 27th Release of the Child Nutrition (CN) Database (CN27) is now available to software companies that develop nutrient analysis and certification of compliance software designed for use in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP).

The CN Database (CNDB) is the required nutrient database that must be included in the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)-approved nutrient analysis software. Only USDA-approved nutrient analysis software may be used by State agencies to conduct nutrient analyses of school lunches and breakfasts for students in grades K through 12 as part of the Administrative Review (AR).

Important Updates to the CNDB

As part of the continued CNDB modernization, commercial food product data was obtained from GS1 Global Data Synchronisation Network (GS1 GDSN) through the Global Branded Foods Products Database (Branded Foods) process.

CN27 contains food product nutrient data from 60 food manufacturers. The CNDB includes food product nutrient data collected on over 9,000 food items; data was added for 225 new products, 1,852 products were updated, and 38 records were discontinued.

Data is provided for the following 19 nutrients: calories, total fat, saturated fat, trans fat, cholesterol, sodium, carbohydrate, dietary fiber, protein, vitamin A, vitamin C, vitamin D, calcium, potassium, iron, ash, total sugars, added sugars, and moisture.

Data from CN27 is incorporated into USDA-approved nutrient analysis software and used by State agencies, School Food Authorities (SFA), and local schools to assess whether meals offered to children through the school meals programs are consistent with federal standards for calories, saturated fat, and sodium (7 CFR 210.10 (f)). Although SFAs are not required to conduct a nutrient analysis, they may do so in order to ensure they meet these federal nutrition standards.

The software approved by USDA for nutrient analysis may also be used for:

- Nutrient analysis portion of certification for the additional performance-based reimbursement (certification of compliance) for lunch;
- Nutrient analysis portion of certification for the additional performance-based reimbursement (certification of compliance) for breakfast; and
- Nutrient analysis of recipes to ensure compliance with the Smart Snacks in School standards.

Next Steps

CN27 is now available to companies who develop software approved by the USDA for nutrient analyses required in the school meal programs. By July 9, 2024, software developers must update their approved nutrient analysis software with CN27. USDA recommends that companies also provide the updated version of their software with CN27 to their customers by July 9, 2024. After this date, State agencies, SFAs, and local schools should verify with their nutrient analysis software company that the software they are using to conduct nutrient analyses includes CN27.

The latest release of the CNDB is available at the Child Nutrition Database Team Nutrition website. It is also available on the CNP Approved Nutrition Software PartnerWeb Community to software companies with approved software.

Please contact the USDA Software Evaluation Team at cnpntab@usda.gov, if you have any questions or concerns.

State agencies are reminded to distribute this information to Program operators immediately. Program operators should direct any questions regarding this memorandum to the appropriate State agency. State agencies should direct questions to the appropriate FNS Regional Office.

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Child Nutrition Programs