



THE BASICS: USDA FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM



Application

- Schools are invited to apply and must do so via the MyNHDOE online platform

School Eligibility

- To be selected for the FFVP, a school must
 - *Be an elementary school, represent that highest percentage of students certified for free and reduced-price benefits, participate in NSLP and complete an annual application for the FFVP.*
- Schools with the highest free and reduced-price enrollment are given priority to participate in FFVP.

Purchasing Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

- Schools participating in the program are required to follow proper procurement procedures. Schools may purchase from wholesalers/brokers, local grocery stores, farmers' markets, orchards, and local growers. The Buy American applies to the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.





THE BASICS: USDA FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM



Serving Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

- Who?
 - FFVP must be offered to all elementary students who are considered enrolled members of the school and present during the time of service. Only adults who are directly responsible for serving FFVP may partake.
- When?
 - USDA encourages that FFVP be served a minimum of twice per week.
 - Outside of reimbursable meal service periods (not at the same time as National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs).
- Where?
 - Service can take place anywhere students can easily consume fruits or vegetables - inside classrooms, in hallways, at kiosks, in free vending machines, or as part of nutrition education activities.
- What?
 - Fruits and vegetables served in their natural state - not canned, dried or frozen. There is no required serving size. A cooked, fresh vegetable may be served once per week and must include a nutrition education lesson.





THE BASICS: USDA FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM



Menu Planning

- While menu planning is not required, it is considered a best practice.
 - When/ if menu planning, focus on serving a variety of fruits and vegetables. Check out NH harvest calendars to see what is in season and budget to allow FFVP service until the end of the school year.

Claims

- Schools have 60-calendar days after the final day of the claim month to submit monthly claims for FFVP. The schools are responsible for making sure claims are submitted on time, are correct and appropriate.

Nutrition Education and Promotion of FFVP

- FFVP funds cannot be used for nutrition education materials or the promotion of the program - *BUT* - nutrition education should be included whenever and wherever possible.
- Nutrition education *IS* required if a cooked, fresh vegetable is being offered.
- FFVP can be promoted by utilizing the student addresses on file, promoting on monthly school menus, newsletters, and bulletin boards.
- Encourage cooperation from administrators, teachers, parents, food service staff, PTA, school nurses, etc.

