

Exemption – Whole Grain-Rich Menu Items

Beginning July 1, 2014, federal regulations require that all grains offered in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) must be whole grain-rich. If the school food authority (SFA) in Minnesota can demonstrate hardship in obtaining acceptable whole grain-rich products that are acceptable to students, the SFA may request an exemption to serve enriched grains during School Year (SY) 2018-19. At a minimum, at least 50 percent of grain products offered weekly must be whole grain-rich on every menu line. Because manufacturers have recently created a number of whole grain-rich products that appeal to students, the following product types will not be considered for exemption:

- Buns
- Sliced bread
- Waffles
- Pancakes
- Bagels
- Crackers
- Cereal/breakfast bars
- Muffins/breakfast breads
- French Toast
- Grain-based desserts
- Pizza crust
- Cereal
- Breading on commercially prepared meat/meat alternate products

List the product(s) for which you are requesting an exemption:

Select reason for requesting the exemption and provide justification to support the request:

- No acceptable product is available
- Unacceptable product quality
- Product not accepted by students or parents
- Financial hardship
- Other _____

If approved, this exemption is valid for SY 2018-19. This flexibility is in place to allow SFAs time to take action necessary to serve all whole grain-rich products. **Describe how you will work towards offering all whole grain-rich products by SY 2019-20.**

Name of District: _____ Sponsor Agreement Number: _____

Name of Food Service Director: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

____ Entire District ____ Individual Schools (identify): _____

Complete this form and submit via email to mde.fns@state.mn.us. Contact the Minnesota Department of Education – Food and Nutrition Service at 651-582-8526 or 800-366-8922 (Minnesota toll-free) if you have questions.

Authorized Authority: _____
(Signature, Title) (Date)

MDE Use Only:

MDE Signature: _____
(Signature, Title) (Date)

The status of the exemption may be withheld or modified at state agency discretion.