



State of Arizona  
Department of Education

**Tom Horne**  
Superintendent of  
Public Instruction

**NSLP CN # 10-08**  
**SFSP CN # 03-08**  
**USDA Memo # TA 01-2008**

**MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** School Health & Nutrition Program Sponsors

**FROM:** Mary Szafranski, Deputy Associate Superintendent  
Arizona Department of Education, Health and Nutrition Services

Kacey Frey, NSLP Health Director  
Arizona Department of Education, School Health & Nutrition Programs

**DATE:** December 19, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Crediting of Corn Meal and Corn Flour for Grains/Breads Component

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*Original Signed*

This memo serves to inform all Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) that according to the United States Department of Agriculture grain products must be enriched or whole-grain, or made from enriched or whole-grain meal and/or flour to be credited as a grains/breads component for Food-Based Menu Planning approaches (which includes the Traditional and Enhanced menu planning options). This applies to **ALL** Child Nutrition Programs including schools, RCCI's, juvenile detention centers, and summer programs. Bran and germ are credited the same as enriched or whole grain meal or flour.

In the past the Child Nutrition Programs allowed corn meal and corn flour to be counted as a whole grain for crediting grains/breads. This is because the standard of identity for "corn meal" and "corn flour" was interpreted as yielding a whole grain.

On February 17, 2006, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published a draft guidance entitled *Whole Grain Label Statements* that contained the following statement:  
*"Degerminated and bolted cornmeals should not be considered whole grain products because germ or bran has been removed during processing. Because the rest of the meal [flour] standards allow removal of some of the hull, these also should not be considered whole grain"*

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*products.*” This clarification by FDA of the standards of identity for “corn meal” and “corn flour” indicates that these products should no longer be considered whole grains for the Child Nutrition Programs.

**Therefore, beginning July 1, 2008, to be credited toward meeting meal pattern requirements, corn must be labeled as...**

- 1. “Whole corn” (or other “whole” corn designations, such as whole grain corn, whole ground corn, whole cornmeal, whole corn flour, etc.), or**
- 2. “enriched” corn (or other “enriched” corn designations, such as enriched yellow cornmeal, enriched corn flour, enriched corn grits, etc.).**

Child Nutrition Programs are encouraged to implement this requirement as soon as possible, but no later than July 1, 2008, to ensure that students receive more nutritious grains/breads products.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this memo, please contact your assigned School Health & Nutrition Program Specialist at 602-542-8700.

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