



Grain-Based Desserts in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

Beginning **October 1, 2017**, grain-based desserts will no longer be creditable in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) meal patterns. USDA defines “grain-based desserts” as those items denoted with superscripts 3 and 4 in Exhibit A in USDA’s Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs. USDA revised Exhibit A in policy memorandum CACFP 02-2017, dated October 14, 2016. CACFP operators should refer to Exhibit A as found in Attachment A of CACFP 02-2017 when determining which items are considered grain-based desserts.

The following is the list of designated grain-based desserts as listed in Exhibit A:

- Sweet crackers (graham crackers – all shapes, animal crackers)
- Cookies (all types, including vanilla wafers)
- Pie crusts (dessert pies, cobblers, fruit turnovers)
- Doughnuts
- Granola bars, breakfast bars, cereal bars
- Sweet rolls
- Toaster pastries
- Cake
- Coffee cake
- Brownies

References:

- Child and Adult Care Food Program: Meal Pattern Revisions Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, Final Rule, 81 Fed. Reg. 79 (April 26, 2016). Retrieved from <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-04-25/pdf/2016-09412.pdf>.
- Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs. (Revised January 2008). Grains/Breads (pp. 3-15 – 3-16) Retrieved from <http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-for-child-nutrition-programs>.
- CACFP 02-2017 Grain Requirements in the Child and Adult Care Food Program; Questions and Answers (October 14, 2016). Retrieved from <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/cacfp/CACFP02-2017os.pdf>.