

Las Vegas Office: 2300 E St. Louis Ave. Las Vegas NV 89104-4211 (702) 668-4590 Fax (702) 668-4567 Elko Office: 4780 E. Idaho Street Elko NV 89801-4672 (775) 738-8076 Fax (775) 738-2639

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

405 South 21st Street Sparks, Nevada 89431-5557 Telephone (775) 353-3601 Fax (775) 353-3661 Website: http://www.agri.nv.gov

February 3, 2017

Certified Letter# 7005 0390 0002 3297 8607

Dr. Eve Breier Imagine School at Mountain View 6610 Grand Montecito Pkwy Las Vegas, NV 89149

Dear Dr. Breier,

The Nevada Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Division conducted an Administrative Review of the Imagine School at Mountain View from January 18 – January 20, 2017. The Administrative Review team consisted of Rose Wolterbeek, School Nutrition Services Specialist, and Brittany Mally, Quality Assurance Specialist. The purpose of the Administrative Review is to ensure compliance with federal regulations and also provide technical assistance for program improvement. Our team greatly enjoyed working with all food service staff members. Thank you for accommodating our staff during the review and for providing all the needed documentation in a timely fashion. Staff was very helpful in providing documentation and answering questions throughout the review process.

We conducted an exit conference on January 20, 2017 to discuss the major findings of the review. The following staff members were in attendance:

- Vanessa Arias, Regional NSLP Sponsor Representative for Imagine Schools
- Jennifer Drummond, Breakfast and Lunch Coordinator
- Nyssa Lunetta, Front Office Administrator
- Loretta McDonald, Business Manager
- Dr. Eve Breier, Principal

The Imagine School at Mountain View received an onsite review of its School Breakfast Program (SBP), and its National School Lunch Program (NSLP). The findings of the review are detailed below by the three main sections of the Administrative Review: Performance Standard I, Performance Standard II and Other Areas. The new procurement review is being coupled with the administrative review and the findings of the procurement review are included in this letter.

Performance Standard I - Meal Access and Reimbursement

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast program (SBP) have counting and claiming systems that are federally mandated for all School Food Authorities (SFAs) that are participating in these programs. All free, reduced price, and paid meals claimed for reimbursement must be served only to children eligible for free, reduced price, or paid meals. The certification and benefits issuance process are the SFA's certification of a student's eligibility for free or reduced price meals and serves as the link to the SFA's meal counting and claiming system. Validation of this system during the Administrative Review ensures that eligible children receive meals to which they are entitled and that claims for reimbursement are valid.

A review of applications at Imagine School revealed the following errors:

- There was one application where it was unclear whether there was child's income. No notes were found to show if that was clarified.
- There were five income applications where a social security number was not provided by the family and the "I do not have a social security number" box was not checked.
- Two income applications marked categorically eligible had invalid case numbers written down. A valid case number should be 9 digits and contain no letters.
- Two income applications were approved for free meal benefits but there was no adult signature on the application.
- An income application was approved for free meal benefits but the notification letter sent out says the child was denied benefits.
- Five applications were not certified within the required 10 day time frame. It was also difficult to determine when the 10 day time frame should have begun as the applications were not date stamped once received by the school.
- Three income applications did not have the "No income" box checked for all household members, however income was not listed for all members on the application. This box needs to be marked if the person does not have an income.
- Three income applications were approved for free meal benefits and the income on each application was annualized when there was only one income stream.

Also this site is using two versions of the income application. Only one type of income application should be used. Please discontinue the use of the old prototype application and going forward only use the new USDA prototype application. A sample is attached with this letter.

Corrective Action Required: The following corrective actions should be taken to correct the application errors listed above. A list of the changes should be kept. This list should include who was talked to, when they were talked to, and the outcome of the communication. Submit to NDA for review.

Income based applications that lack any one of these items are considered incomplete and cannot be processed for meal benefits.

- 1. Names of all Household Members
- 2. Amount, source, and frequency of current income for each household member
- 3. Signature of an adult household member
- Last 4 digits of the social security number of the households primary wage earner or another adult household member, or an indication that the household member does not have one

Families who have income based applications that are considered incomplete should be notified as to why their application is considered incomplete and given the opportunity to submit/correct the missing information within 10 calendar days of the notification being sent to them. If the family fails to submit/correct the missing information in the required timeframe, they should immediately be placed on paid status.

To be considered complete, an assistance program application must have the following information;

- 1. Names of children for whom the application is made
- 2. SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR case number or identifier, for the children or any household member listed on the application, and
- 3. Signature of the Adult household member completing the application

Families whose have assistance program based applications that are considered incomplete should be notified as to why their application is considered incomplete and given the opportunity to submit/correct the missing information within 10 calendar days of the notification being sent to them. If the family fails to submit/correct the missing information in the required timeframe, they should immediately be placed on paid status.

Income should not be annualized when there is only one income frequency listed. It is only annualized when there are multiple income streams with differing pay frequencies.

Verification of applications is federal requirement of this program and must be completed within the appropriate timeframes. The verification pool must be selected on October 1st and completed in a timely fashion. The verification process must be complete no later than November 15th. Notification of verification letters for Imagine School were not sent out until November 1st. It was unclear when the verification pool was selected.

Corrective Action Required: Please write a plan for how verification will be conducted in a timely fashion and who, by name and title will complete which tasks to complete the verification process. Submit to NDA for review.

The Notice to Households of Approval/Denial of benefits used at Imagine School at Mountain View was reviewed. It needs the following changes to become compliant with regulations;

• The letter should list note that families have the ability to reapply for benefits at any time during the school year.

Corrective Action Required: The Notice to Households should be updated as noted above. Submit your updated notice to households of approval/denial of benefits to NDA for review.

Meal Counting and Claiming

The counting and claiming procedures that were observed for breakfast and lunch were not in accordance with USDA regulation governing how reimbursable meals are counted. The following was noted while conducting the onsite portion of the Administrative Review.

- A pre-meal count was being used as the count sheet to claim meals during both breakfast and lunch. A pre-meal count may be used to determine how many meals to prepare, however those numbers cannot be used to count the number of reimbursable meals served. A meal cannot be counted until it is served to the student. A separate sheet different than the pre-count sheets needs to be used to count meals during the meal service.
- The system being used to track meals served, billed to students, and then claimed for reimbursement is confusing. It is all done manually which means there is a greater chance for errors to occur.
- When the claim for reimbursement that was submitted for the month of review (October 2016) was reviewed against the individual meal count sheets for October, a large discrepancy was found in the number of meals served versus the number of meals that were claimed. Please refer to tables below for meal count numbers.

Breakfast	NDA Totals Counted	Claimed Totals by Imagine	Difference
Free	514	338	-176
Reduced	24	25	1
Paid	89	88	-1
Total	627	451	-176

Lunch	NDA Totals Counted	Claimed Totals by Imagine	Difference
Free	1657	2698	1041
Reduced	160	232	72
Paid	297	511	214
Total	2114	3441	1327

- This is a very large difference in meal counts. It was explained to the NDA reviewer that for the meal count sheets an "X" next to that student's name indicates a student receives a meal. That process is how the meals were counted by NDA to get those totals. If that is how the meal count is done for Imagine than it is expected that the total number of "x"s on the meal count sheets for the month of October match the total number of meals that were claimed for reimbursement.

- The invoices for October from the vended meal company who supplies Imagine with their meals each day, were reviewed also to determine how many meals were ordered for the month. For lunch only 2,509 lunch meals were ordered when 3,441 were claimed for reimbursement. It is not possible to serve more meals than were ordered.
- The meal counts for November were spot checked by NDA to determine if the meal counting and claiming system has a systemic or non-systemic problem. The lunch meal counts from November showed a consistent difference in the number of total meals claimed each day. However for this month the number of total meals counted by Imagine were lower than the meals counted by NDA. When the total meals were broken down into free, reduced and paid the difference was found in the number of free meals. This shows that there is a systemic problem in the meal counting and claiming procedure being done at Imagine School at Mountain View.

Notice of Fiscal Action

Claims for reimbursement must accurately reflect the number of reimbursable meals served to eligible children, by type, for any given day. When a discrepancy is noted, fiscal action must be taken to correct this.

The Imagine School at Mountain View October 2016 claim for reimbursement did not accurately reflect the number of meals served by category to eligible students.

Breakfast	Original Claim	Over/Under Claim		Price/Meal	Amount of Recoupment
Free	338	-176	\$	2.04	\$ (359.04)
Reduced	25	1	\$	1.74	\$ 1.74
Paid	88	-1	\$	0.29	\$ (0.29)
Total Breakfast Under claim				\$ (357.59)	

Lunch	Original Claim	Over/Under Claim	P	rice/Meal	Amount of Recoupment
Free	2698	1041	\$	3.24	\$ 3,372.84
Reduced	232	72	\$	2.84	\$ 204.48
Paid	511	214	\$	0.38	\$ 81.32
Total Lunch Over claim			\$ 3,658.64		

Since the amount for breakfast was under claimed and the 90 day time period for revision of claims has passed the amount cannot be given back to Imagine School. The over claimed amount from lunch will be recouped from future claims for reimbursement until the amount is paid back in each category. Imagine School will have its future claims for reimbursement adjusted to account for the overpayment in each category until the entire overpayment is recouped.

Corrective Action Required: Please write a policy or procedure that will eliminate errors when consolidating meal count reports. This policy needs to include how meal counting

and claiming will be done at Imagine School at Mountain View to ensure that claims for reimbursement accurately reflect the number of reimbursable meals served to eligible children, by type, for any given day. This procedure should at least include the following:

- Who is responsible for marking off reimbursable meals on the count sheet
- How meals are counted and when they are marked on the sheet
- Who consolidates the meal counts and how often
- Will another official review the count sheet before submission, or will additional edit checks be added to the process
- Who is responsible for inputting and submitting the claim for reimbursement Submit the final policy/procedure to NDA for review.

In addition, submit to NDA the meal count sheets for the month of February 2017 along with total number of meals that will be used for the claim for reimbursement.

Performance Standard II- Meal Pattern and Nutritional Quality

The National School Lunch meal pattern is the foundation of federal school nutrition programs, and sponsors of the program must ensure that they are offering reimbursable meals for breakfast and lunch according to regulations (7 CFR 210.10 and 220.80). Schools operating NSLP and/or the SBP must prepare, offer, and serve meals to students that meet the meal pattern requirements for the appropriate age/grade groups on all reimbursable meal service lines.

The meal pattern standards have specific requirements for minimum amounts of fruit, vegetables, meat/meat alternates, and grains that must be offered daily and weekly. In addition, there are standards for vegetable sub-groups which must be offered each week. The meal pattern also requires that all creditable grain items be whole grain rich. The meal pattern limits calories (minimum and maximum levels), restricts sodium levels, limits saturated fat, and eliminates trans fats. The menu was in compliance and there is no corrective action needed in the meal pattern and menu area.

Reimbursable Meal Signage

Proper signage was not posted which would indicate what a child would have to take to have a reimbursable meal. Imagine School has a MyPlate poster displayed and the monthly menu displayed. However, that does not help a child to identify what constitutes a reimbursable meal.

Corrective Action Required: Create a policy governing the use of the menu boards. This policy should direct staff to complete the menu board daily for each meal service. Submit one weeks' worth of photographs and the corresponding menu showing that the menu boards are being used to inform children of what is being served and what constitutes a reimbursable meal. The current MyPlate poster can be laminated and written on daily or NDA has breakfast menu boards available for order at no cost. Submit the policy to NDA as well for review.

Production Records

Per 7 CFR 210.10 schools must follow a food based menu planning approach and produce enough food to offer each child the quantities specified in the meal pattern and must also keep production and menu records for the meals they produce/serve. Production and menu records must be maintained in accordance with Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) guidance. The menu production records must be filled out completely and daily for all NSLP programs.

For this review, the production records for one week from the month of review (October 2016) were requested prior to the onsite visit. NDA received them and upon further review saw that they were incomplete. During the onsite portion of the review, NDA asked for copies of the production records for the breakfast and lunch meal that was observed. Imagine said they would send them to NDA as they were on the computer since that is how they are received from their meal vendor. It was determined that Imagine is receiving production records from their meal vendor for each meal that are partially filled out and then the business manager is saving them in a file on the computer. The production records are not being printed out and completed after each meal. Imagine School is responsible for completing the following parts of the production records they receive from their meal vendor daily:

- #2 School Name
- #6 Students Served, Adults Served, Total Served
- #7 Date
- #21 Leftover
- #22 Comments
- If any substitutions are made to the menu that needs to also be recorded on the form. It is the program operator's responsibility to fill in all daily changes made at the site/school level, if pre-populated in advance by the vendor.

Corrective Action Required: Please submit to NDA one weeks' worth of completed production records for both breakfast and lunch meals.

Best Practice Food Recovery and Reducing Food Waste

Large amounts of unserved food on a regular basis suggests the need to review menus and production practices. All alternatives permitted to eliminate waste by program regulations and local health and sanitation codes should be exhausted before discarding food. As seen at Imagine Schools with the vended meal operation, the staff person should try and utilize the unused refrigerated boxed lunches for meal service a subsequent day if within allowable amounts of food production and the lunch remains unopened and refrigerated. If local policies permit, allow students to save items for later consumption, such as an apple or the individual wrapped baby carrots.

Also, try and set up a sharing table for students to place items they are not going to consume. Ensure that only students can take things from the sharing table, not adults. The use of meal items or lunches are not able to be given away to adults unless they are purchasing them from the non-profit food service account. During the onsite review, a

large bin of baby carrots in individual bags were found in the teacher's lounge refrigerator. Baby carrots were on the lunch menu the previous day. If those carrots were leftovers from the lunch meals the previous day they cannot be given away to the teachers. First try and reuse them for reimbursable lunches and then if they cannot be used within the required timeframe discard them.

Comprehensive Resource Management

A comprehensive resource management review is required when certain risk based criteria are met by the school district. The Imagine School at Mountain View triggered a comprehensive resource management review of two areas: the maintenance of the nonprofit school food service account and the sale of non-program foods. The intent and scope of this part of the Administrative Review is to apply a systematic approach to ensuring the overall financial health of an SFA's nonprofit food service. The areas covered are detailed below.

After an in depth review of the maintenance of the nonprofit school food service account there were no findings and no corrective actions necessary in this area. In regards to the sale of non-program foods there were no major findings. It was noted that the vendor of the vending machine stocks the machine and gives the school a percentage of the sales. The contract from the vending machine company was not reviewed so an exact percentage is unknown.

General Program Compliance

Professional Standards

The Professional Standards regulations in 7 CFR 210.30 establishes hiring standards for new school nutrition program directors at the School Food Authority (SFA) level (effective July 1, 2015). In addition, the regulations establish annual training standards for all school nutrition program directors, managers, and staff. The required annual training hours vary according to the employee's role in the management and operation of the school nutrition program. The current director was hired prior to July 1, 2015 and is grandfathered in under the new hiring requirements.

Training must be job-specific and is intended to help employees perform their duties well. Training needs are best assessed by an employee in consultation with their manager, director, or the Nevada Department of Agriculture. Training may be obtained in many ways, such as in-person, online, through local meetings, webinars, conferences, etc. A variety of free and low-cost training resources and formats are available.

USDA Training Tracking Tool has been provided as a resource to assist SFAs to track and record the annual training hours completed by each school nutrition program employee. Supporting documentation for all completed trainings, i.e., *agendas, sign-in sheets, certificates of completion, etc.* must be maintained on file.

The required training hours have increased for the 2016/2017 school year and will remain as such going forward. The hours are as follows:

- Food Service Director/Supervisor 12 hours
- Food Service Manager 8 hours
- All other full time staff 6 hours
- Part time staff 4 hours

The professional standard hours are being tracked very well for the staff with roles related to food service. It is very organized and easy to follow. Based on the roles and responsibilities of some of the employees, they will need to increase the amount of professional standard hours they are receiving. For Imagine School these are the roles and training hours each food service staff member needs to follow:

- Jennifer Drummond Breakfast and Lunch Coordinator = Manager role 10 hours/year
- Nyssa Lunetta Front Office Administrator Full time staff = 6 hours/year (if food service role decreases can be considered part time at 4 hours/per)
- Loretta McDonald Business Manager Part time role in NSLP = 4 hours/year
- Other part time staff assisting with lunch service = 4 hours/year

Corrective Action Required: Please update the trainer tracker sheets to reflect the correct hours needed for each employee and update with any additional trainings that have been completed. Submit to NDA for review.

School Wellness Policy and Competitive Foods

Imagine School sells competitive foods daily during breakfast and lunch through two vending machines in the lunchroom. It is a requirement that these foods and beverages meet the Smart Snack Nutrition Standards outlined in the Nevada School Wellness policy. There was one item specially that does not meet the Smart Snack Standards and should not be ordered anymore. This is the Mr. Flav beverage found in the beverage vending machine. The rest of the items in the machines will need to be reviewed to make sure they meet the Smart Snack Standards.

Corrective Action Required: For all food and beverage items sold in the vending machine please submit a nutrition facts label for each to NDA for review. Sell the remaining Mr. Flav in the machine but do not order more once it is gone.

Best Practices for Special Occasions and Birthdays

During the onsite visit we witnessed cupcakes being brought to school for the celebration of student birthdays. This was seen on two consecutive days and on the second day there were multiple parents bringing in cupcakes. The Nevada State Wellness Policy allows for each school district to establish a policy that outlines which special occasions or holidays and the frequency that foods that exceed the established nutrition parameters may be allowed. Imagine School's wellness policy states "Treats that do not meet the Smart Snack Nutrition Standards are permitted for Halloween, Christmas, Easter, and student birthdays." Best practices suggest that classroom birthday celebrations be held once per month for each class. This helps to limit the amount of cupcakes and sweets that are brought into class. It is up to the school and teachers to decide what day of the month

that should be. A common example from other schools include the first Friday of each month.

All other general areas reviewed were in compliance and no corrective action is necessary.

Procurement Review

The procurement of goods and services is a significant responsibility of a school food authority (SFA). Obtaining the most economical purchase should be considered in all purchases when using the nonprofit food service account. The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) is required to ensure that SFAs comply with the applicable regulations through audits, administrative reviews, technical assistance, training, guidance materials, and by other means. (7 CFR 210.19(a)(3)). Federal, state and local laws and regulations specify the methods SFAs must ensure that all competitive procurements must be in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200.318-.326 and all other applicable government-wide and FNS regulations and guidance. All contract purchasing services involving the child nutrition program regulations for procurement must be in place (7CFR 210.21):

- Properly procure goods and services
- Award contracts only to responsible contractors
- Not restrict competition
- Follow procurement standards in program regulations (7 CFR 210.21 & 2 CFR 200.318-.326)
- Prohibit conflicts of interest
- Use required procurement methods
- Take affirmative steps to use small, minority, women's business and labor surplus enterprises, when possible
- Oversee contractors to ensure all contract provisions are fulfilled for the duration of the contract
- Buy American Provision

With regards to a procurement plan for the Child Nutrition program at Imagine Schools the reviewer examined the sponsor's procurement procedures. A procurement plan was in place at the time of the review. Per USDA guidance, the procurement plan must outline the specific procedures per 2CFR Part 200 for program operators 2CFR 318 (a). The plan must prohibit the acquisition of unnecessary or duplicative items per 2CFR 218(d). This clause will need to be added to the current plan and/or policy.

Based on the responses received by Imagine School from NDA's procurement worksheet, it was determined that the school was using the following procurement method in its operation:

- Micro-purchase Method
- Small Purchase Method

As part of the **Micro Purchase**, the Nevada Department of Agriculture reviewed one vendor (2015/16 School year) for purchases within the micro-purchase threshold (\$0-\$3,500): Sysco. The reviewer examined the sponsor's purchase orders and receipts/invoices to determine:

- If the transactions were below \$3,500
- If the prices for products were purchased reasonable
- If the SFA equitably distributed purchases among qualified sources

The method was in compliance in all three areas with the regulations on Federal purchasing.

As part of the **Small Purchase Threshold**, the reviewer found that one vendor met the small purchase threshold requirements: Kamran and Company. The total amount spent on equipment and small wares was \$23,469.67. It was not able to be determined if price quotes were obtained from an adequate number of qualified sources (2 or more) per 2CFR Part 200.320(b)/7CFR 3016 (d)(1). Due to a staffing change at Imagine, the employee and/or the records were not available at the time of the review to document this requirement as nothing was able to be found by the current staff in place. Since this was a one-time purchase of kitchen equipment, the sponsor was advised to keep records (email, quotes, and/or purchasing logs) in the future per their procurement plan now in place. Regarding one item, which was a capital expenditure (the convection oven), the purchase was in compliance as it was on NDA's Approved Equipment list per Numbered Memo NSLP 2014-44R issued on 6/07/16.

A written code of standard of conduct was requested as part of the procurement review. It was determined that Imagine Schools did have policies in place under the Charter School Purchasing Policy as well as in their procurement plan. Per 2CFR Part 200.3189(c)(1) the non-Federal entity must maintain written standard of conduct covering conflicts of interest and to govern the actions of its employees engaged in the selection, award and administration of contracts. No employee, officer, or agent may participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by a Federal award if he or she has a real or apparent conflict of interest. The code of conduct must also provide for disciplinary action for violations by officers, employees or agents (2CFR 200.318 (c) 1. No further action is required.

Imagine School at Mountain View is currently receiving entitlement funds for the purchase of USDA Foods. For the 2015/16 school year, the amount was \$ 4,886.25; the sponsor used zero in entitlement funds leaving \$ 4,886.25 unused. As a best practice, the Nevada Department of Agriculture recommends that Imagine Schools fully utilize the entire amount of the USDA Foods entitlement dollars through the State of Nevada Commodity Food Distribution Program and/or with the DOD Fresh program.

Per the vended meal contract in place (2016/17), the current vendor has agreed to use the USDA Foods from Imagine (per section 1.13 on page 3). The full Federal value would appear as a credit on the vended meal invoice per the contract (section 1.13.1) as

a separate line item and be clearly identified and labeled. At the time of the procurement review, there was \$7,563.62 allocated and \$161.88 was used with the meal vendor for qualified purchases. The purchases must be made before June 30, 2017 for this school year or the school may surrender the balance of unspent entitlement funds; a form is available to do this through NDA. Additional guidance on any of these areas may be obtained by contacting NDA for additional technical assistance.

Corrective Action Required: In order for the current Procurement plan to be in compliance, the sponsor must address in its current plan and/or policy that there is no acquisition of unnecessary or duplicate goods or services with regards to purchasing. Please send a copy of the revised Procurement plan and/or the Charter School Purchasing policy update to address this area.

Also, please keep all solicitation documents for all future procurement methods per the approved procurement plan for the current year plus three years after the contract year purchasing is finalized. The documents must be kept longer if there are unresolved audit findings.

As part of training and technical assistance, please find attached the following guidance document: Numbered memo NSLP 2016-14 (issued on November 3, 2015): Questions and Answers on the Transition to and Implementation of 2 CFR Part 200. Further technical assistance will be provided if requested by staff on the procurement review findings.

Summary

One item above requires fiscal action. The October claim for reimbursement did not accurately reflect the meal counts for that month and meals were over claimed. Those meals will be recouped through future claims for a total of \$3,658.64. None of the above mentioned items require a change in your performance based \$0.06 reimbursement. However, please note that if repeat violations are found on subsequent reviews in any program area fiscal penalties may be assessed and the additional \$0.06 reimbursement may be turned off until the program is brought into compliance with federal regulations. All corrective actions must be completed and submitted by March 6, 2017. If corrective action is not completed, or if the need is identified to ensure all corrective items are in place we may schedule a follow up review. Program funds may be withheld until corrective action is complete if not submitted by the required due date. Please see the attached document, NSLP-SBP-SMP Appeals sponsor handout for direction on how to appeal the denial of all or a part of the claim for reimbursement or withholding funds. If you have any questions about the required corrective action please contact Brittany Mally at (775) 353-3663 as soon as possible.

Buttany Mally

Best Regards,

> Brittany Mally RD,LD, Quality Assurance Specialist, NV Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Division

Attachments: Appeal Procedures, Numbered memo NSLP 2016-14, USDA Prototype Application

Cc: Loretta McDonald, Business Administrator
Vanessa English, NSLP Sponsor Representative
Jennifer Drummond, Breakfast and Lunch Coordinator
Nyssa Lunetta, Front Office Administrator
Catrina Peters, School Nutrition Services Manager, NV Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Division
Rose Wolterbeek, School Nutrition Services Specialist, NV Dept. Of Agriculture,
Food and Nutrition Division