



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION June St. Clair Atkinson, ED.D., *State Superintendent*

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Child Nutrition Administrators

FROM: Lynn Hoggard, Section Chief
Child Nutrition Services

SUBJECT: **USDA Best Practices Awards**
Submission deadline – April 9, 2007, 5:00 p.m.

DATE: January 29, 2007

USDA has just announced the fourteenth annual “Best Practice Awards” in the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program and Food Distribution Program. The purpose of the Best Practices Awards is to encourage and reward outstanding practices in schools and school districts throughout the nation.

North Carolina’s Child Nutrition Programs have been the proud recipients of Best Practice Awards for the past three years. Clearly, there are many “best practices” taking place in our state’s Child Nutrition Programs. On behalf of the Child Nutrition Services section, I would like to encourage you to receive the recognition you deserve by nominating your LEA or a school within your LEA for consideration for a Best Practices Award. The application package for the coming year is included with this letter. The package includes the following:

- nomination form
- nomination categories and a description of the categories
- requirements for the nomination
- awards selection criteria

As you consider nominating your LEA or schools in your LEA, please remember that awards will be given for both small and large LEAs. Those LEAs with enrollments greater than 20,000 will be considered against other large LEAs and those with enrollments less than 20,000 will compete against other LEAs of similar size. Entries will be limited to no more than two different categories per nomination (please note USDA prefers one category per nomination). Entries received for categories not listed in this communication will not be considered for awards. Additional materials such as videos and extra binders should be limited to one or two at most for each entry. Schools participating in the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program may enter nominations in any of the categories.

CHILD NUTRITION SERVICES SECTION

6324 Mail Service Center :: Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-6324 :: 919-807-3506 :: Fax 919-807-3516

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The deadline for submitting the nomination package is April 9, 2007, 5:00 p.m. Nomination packages must be received by the Child Nutrition Services section by this deadline in order to be considered for the award. Nominations may be sent to the section by fax at (919) 807-3516 or they may be delivered to the Child Nutrition Services Section at the following address:

NC Department of Public Instruction
Child Nutrition Services Section
301 North Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825

Please print "USDA Best Practices Award Nomination" on your fax cover page or on your delivery box so these applications may be easily distinguished from other items received by the section. Please also notify me when you send a fax or other delivery so we may anticipate the arrival of your nomination. Given the possibility of a delay, please do not send the nomination package by U.S. Mail.

Should you have questions, please contact me your Child Nutrition Regional Consultant.

Please take the opportunity to complete the nomination application to earn the recognition your Child Nutrition Program deserves!

LH

Enclosure

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