
TO: SM 21-26, CA 14-26, FCC 12-26, MK 05-26

FROM: Julie Fletcher, Executive Director *JF*
Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs

DATE: May 28, 2026

SUBJECT: Expanding Fluid Milk Options in Child Nutrition Programs

On May 8, 2026, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) published the final rule, [*Expanding Fluid Milk Options in Child Nutrition Programs*](#) (91 FR 25073) effective June 8, 2026. This rule expands fluid milk options by allowing operators of the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Special Milk Program to offer whole and reduced fat (2%) milk to participants two years and older. This rule codifies milkfat requirements following enactment of the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025 ([*P.L. 119-69*](#)) and supports the statutory requirements for meals to align with the goals of the [*Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025–2030*](#). By removing previous fluid milkfat content restrictions, this deregulatory rule restores flexibility to Program operators, allowing them to offer a greater variety of fluid milk options, including whole and reduced-fat milk, to meet the nutrition needs and preferences of the children and adults they serve.

A memorandum providing further information on the implementation of this final rule will be released pending guidance from USDA.

Agencies should disseminate this information to appropriate personnel. If you have questions or comments concerning the information in this memorandum, email your program specialist.

JF: bb