

Request for Exemption for Whole Grain-Rich Requirements School Year 2016-2017

I, _____, as the duly authorized representative of _____ [SFA Name], do hereby attest that the aforementioned SFA and all schools under its jurisdiction demonstrate a hardship in procuring compliant whole grain-rich products that are acceptable to students, and that the factors indicated in this document pose a challenge in offering whole grain-rich products. In Section 751 of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113-235), Congress directed the Secretary of Agriculture to allow State Agencies that administer the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) to grant an exemption from the regulatory whole grain-rich requirement in the meal programs, in school years (SYs) 2014-2015, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 to a school food authority (SFA) that demonstrates a hardship in procuring compliant whole grain-rich products that are acceptable to students.

The State Agency may approve an SFA's exemption request for specific products if the SFA can demonstrate hardship(s). The temporary exemptions are allowed for any type of grain product(s), (e.g., pasta, bread, brown rice, etc.) and for one or more different products. SFAs granted an exemption must work with the State Agency to search for acceptable products, and must comply with the SY 2013-2014 requirement of at least half of the grains offered weekly are whole grain-rich products.

The State Agency will consider hardship factors in allowing an exemption for the listed whole grain-rich product(s) for SY 2016-2017. Place an "X" in the appropriate column or columns (Yes) for each hardship consideration. If your hardship is not listed, include in the other hardship section. List the grain product(s) to be exempted.

*Reference: SP 33-2016

List the type of grain product(s) to be exempted and attach justification (pictures, receipts, etc. for documentation):

Yes Hardship(s):

	Financial hardship: The SFA's records demonstrate a significant drop in meal counts after the whole grain-rich product(s) was offered.	
	Financial hardship: The SFA experienced a significant cost increase when procuring the whole grain-rich product(s).	
	Limited product availability: The SFA does not have access to a compliant whole grain-rich product(s) in the local market and would like to offer enriched grain item(s) temporarily.	
	Unacceptable product quality: The whole grain-rich product(s) offered by the SFA did not retain the desired texture or lost palatability during the typical holding time.	

List the type of grain product(s) to be exempted (attach production record):

Yes Hardship(s):

	Poor student acceptability: The whole grain-rich product(s) offered by the SFA received significant negative student/parent feedback or there was increased plate waste of that menu item when the whole grain-rich product(s) was offered multiple times and over a sustained period of time.	
	Other hardship (please list):	

List alternative product types/brands that have been utilized:

Grain Item	Product Description	Manufacturer	Product Code

My signature indicates that I understand and attest to the accuracy of the information provided above, that all records to support the information are available upon request by the State Agency, and that the SFAs receiving the exemption must ensure that at least half of the grain items offered weekly is whole grain-rich.

Director of Schools

Date

SCN/MC Program Coordinator

Date

***Please complete this form, sign, and electronically submit to Sandy Wagner at sandra.wagner@education.ky.gov.**

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”