

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued a “short-term” bridge rule, establishing transitional standards for milk, whole grains, and sodium; making important nutrition improvements while maintaining some continuity for school meals over the next two school years. Due to the increased nutritional standards set forth in the Healthy Schools Act of 2010 (HSA), as amended by the Healthy Students Amendment Act of 2018, **only the transitional standards for sodium are applicable in the District of Columbia.** Below are key updates related to the final rule, including action items needed from SFAs.

Sodium Targets:

The transitional standards for sodium are as follows:

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM TRANSITIONAL SODIUM TIMELINE & LIMITS		
Age/grade group	Target 1: Effective July 1, 2022 (mg)	Interim Target 1A: Effective July 1, 2023 (mg)
K-5	<1,230	<1,110
6-8	<1,360	<1,225
9-12	<1,420	<1,280

SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM TRANSITIONAL SODIUM TIMELINE & LIMITS	
Age/grade group	Target 1: Effective July 1, 2022 (mg)
K-5	<540
6-8	<600
9-12	<640

The final rule with request for comments for transitional standards for milk, whole grains, and sodium can be found [here](#).

Action needed:

1. Plan for menus to meet new sodium targets starting July 1, 2022
2. Update food service contracts as applicable:

New solicitations for the 2022-23 school year

SFAs soliciting new contracts for the upcoming school year may use OSSE’s solicitation templates, which have been updated to reflect these changes. All templates for the 2022-23 school year are posted on the [OSSE website](#).

Contract modifications for existing contracts:

The sodium requirements in existing contracts are actually stricter than what will be required as of July 1, 2022. SFAs can choose to:

1. Continue with their current contracts – no change is necessary.
2. Modify existing contracts to include new sodium standards. Due to continued supply chain issues, OSSE recommends that SFAs renewing contracts discuss with their food service vendor or management company to determine if a modification allowing for increased sodium flexibility is needed. SFAs executing a contract modification to allow for the transitional sodium standards may use [this](#) contract modification template.