

Food Service Management Company Restrictions

FSMC Regulations

Due to current federal regulations food service management companies (FSMC) CANNOT directly manage and administer AMP -- the school district has to.

You can produce the meals, create the menu, work with the district to develop and implement the management plan and coordinate with the afterschool programs, but you can't act as the primary fiscal/legal agent in terms of signing the contract with the Florida Department of Health (DOH).

FSMC Barriers

One of the main reasons a school district chooses to contract with a FSMC is so they don't have to directly manage the process or providing food to their students. This can make finding a school district person willing to sign on the bottom line difficult.

This often leads to a paralysis of action. You as the food service manager and/or school district employee has to try to recruit someone at the district level to contractually obligate themselves to a manage a food program they often don't have the capacity, knowledge or desire to run in the first place.

This might seem daunting, but there are many examples where districts, FSMC, and afterschool programs work collaboratively in a symbiotic relationship where everyone benefits. We've seen the following suggestions help in several cases.

FSMC Suggestions and Options

Evaluate the Afterschool Program

Do an initial evaluation of the afterschool program up front. Ask yourself, will it be a good fit to sponsor AMP for them?

Convey the Financial Benefits

Have an estimate of the financial benefits of AMP. The fact that left over Afterschool Meals Program administrative dollars can be used to support other federal nutrition programs like the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is a powerful incentive.

Perfection is Not Necessary

Don't let the perfect get in the way of the possible. The school district representative signing the contract can be changed at anytime. You don't have to find the "perfect" person to act as a liaison.

Often school districts will have the business manager, the business manager's secretary or even the superintendent sign the contract initially. After that, usually over the course of a few months, the district can make a decision as to who makes the most sense to submit claims and make sure AMP policies are being followed, etc.

Ask For Help

Don't hesitate to ask DOH or us to assist in the process. We can provide greater details regarding this regulation, and help support the district representative go through the application process. Remember the school district application process to run this program is much easier than typical non-profits.