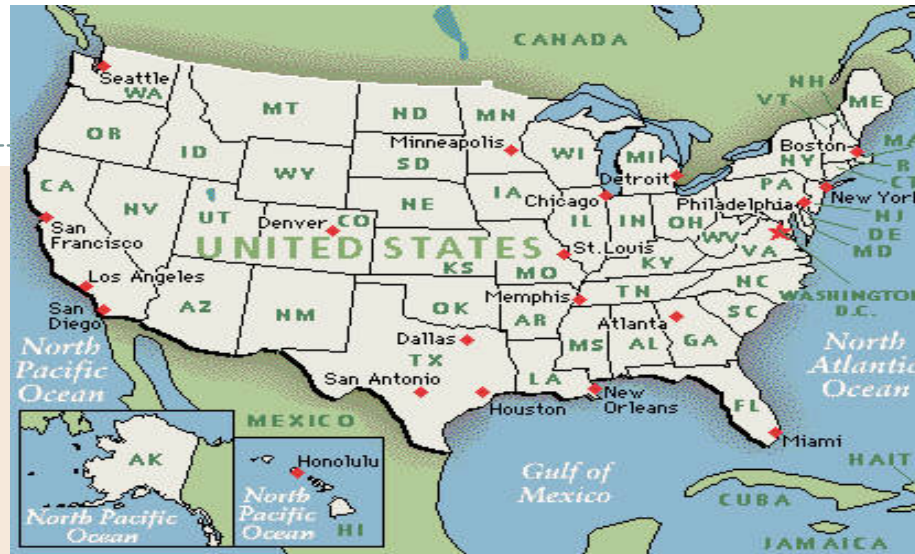


# State Distributing Agency (SDA) Performance Standards



**Mike Birkmeyer, Section Chief**

Food Distribution Section

School and Community Nutrition Programs

Maryland Department of Education

# Commodity Reform Act of 1987



**Mandated Minimum**

**State Performance Standards**



# State Standards



- **National uniformity**
- **Customer service**
- **Access to ordering options and processing**
- **Regs (7 CFR 250.24) published 1988**

# WHY ARE STATES DIFFERENT?



- **Interpret Regulations Differently**
- **Different Departments In Each State**
- **Local Laws and Policies**
- **What Works Best For State**

# 250.24(a) Program Management & Evaluation



- **Assess the adequacy of the service provided to recipients, i.e., customer service to schools:**
  - **Commodity offering & ordering procedures**
  - **Warehousing & distribution system**
  - **Processing program**
  - **ALL Districts have access to commodity to meet planned assistance level.**

# 250.24(c) Fiscal Responsibility



- **Financial Management System**
- **Funds Accountability System**
- **Record Keeping System**

# 250.24(d) Ordering and Allocation



- **On an equitable basis;**



- **In the types & forms most usable;**



# WHY ARE STATES DIFFERENT?



- **State Procurement vs School Procurement**
- **State Distribution vs Contract Distribution**
- **Choice vs Push**
- **ECOS/State Systems**



# 250.24(d) Ordering & Allocation:



## Ten basic provisions...

- 1. Obtain and *use* commodity acceptability info when ordering**
  - ✦ **Advisory Council**
  - ✦ **Prior historical pull rates**
  - ✦ **Real-time actual request from all RA's**
- 2. Provide “info” on commodities available**

# 250.24(d) Ordering & Allocation:



## Ten basic provisions...

3. **Commodity assistance level info:**
  - **Planned assistance levels & commodity values**
  - **Separate bonus & entitlement commodity value**
  - **Report entitlement balances**
4. **Order and allocate based on participation data**

# 250.24(d) Ordering & Allocation:



## Ten basic provisions...

- 5. Order commodity quantity and timing as requested.**
- 6. Permit changes to orders.**
- 7. Permit refusals prior to delivery.**
- 8. Provide ordering options, bulk for processing, fruit sliced/halves, etc.**

# 250.24(d) Ordering & Allocation:



## Ten basic provisions...

- 9. Offer the per-meal rate**
- 10. Consider preparation and storage capabilities...how much can they handle?**

# WHY ARE STATES DIFFERENT?



- **Level of Processing Program**
- **Truck Fill Requirements**
- **Administrative Fee vs Commodity Value**

# 250.24(e) Warehousing & Distribution



- 1. Efficient, cost effective & responsive**
  - Backhauling NOT effective and costs schools money
- 2. Permit direct delivery**
  - Facilitate ordering partial trucks
- 3. Solicit info re: RA needs**
- 4. Distribution schedules that are equitable and meet RAs' needs**
- 5. Deliveries AT LEAST MONTHLY...**
  - Weekly, bi-weekly, etc...**

# **250.24(f) Disposition of damaged or out-of-condition commodity.**

- **State system for handling complaints**
- **Notify USDA of any losses**
- **Arrange for the replacement of lost commodity**

# 250.24(g) Processing



- **Administer an “acceptable” program**
- **Inform RA’s of processing options**
- **Test end products**
- **Monitor product acceptability**



# PROCESSOR EXPECTATIONS



- **Consistent Approval Process**
- **Decision Maker Contact Information**
- **Allocation Information**
- **Resource**

# STATE EXPECTATIONS



- **Adhere to SPA**
- **Complete, Accurate, TIMELY**  
**Monthly Performance Reports**  
**Processing Show Participation**  
**Customer Satisfaction**

