children in kindergarten through grade 3 and three-fourths cup for grades 4–12) per lunch *plus* an additional one-half cup served over a five-day period for children in kindergarten through grade 6. Allowing a five-day period to serve the additional one-half cup provides schools with flexibility in meal planning. Because older children have greater need for calories and other nutrients, the proposed rule would increase the minimum serving for vegetables/fruits for children in grades 7 through 12 from three-fourths of a cup per day to one cup per day. No changes are being proposed, however, for the portion sizes for very young and preschool children nor are changes made to what constitutes this component. The Department is proposing to revise the chart, 'Minimum Quantities' in § 210.10(c) as well as the additional discussion about this component in § 210.10(d)(3) to reflect the enhanced portion sizes.

Grains/Breads

As with the fruits/vegetables component, the Department is proposing a significant increase in the amount of grains/breads made available during a school week. Both the Dietary Guidelines and the Department's Food Pyramid place emphasis on the consumption of grains. In keeping with the use of the term "grains" in the Dietary Guidelines, this proposal would amend the chart, "Minimum Quantities" in § 210.10(c) and the additional discussion about this component in § 210.10(d)(4) to rename the component currently titled "Bread/ Bread Alternate." The new title would be "Grains/Breads." In addition, the Department is proposing an increase in the number of servings of grains and breads for school children to augment dietary fiber and to provide an additional low-fat source of calories to balance the loss of calories from fat. Again, it should be noted that the servings for very young and preschool children have not been changed. However, for children in kindergarten through grade 6, the number of servings per week of grains and breads would be increased from 8 to 12. For children in grades 7 through 12, the number of servings would be increased from 10 to 15 servings per week. The Department is also proposing to revise $\S 210.10(d)(4)(ii)$ to permit one serving per day of grains/breads in the form of a dessert. This proposed change is

per day of grains/breads in the form of a dessert. This proposed change is designed to provide flexibility to assist menu planners in meeting energy needs.

Current guidance (FNS Instruction 783–12), issued in 1983, established the requirements and the minimum weights

for the current breads/bread alternates component. The Department plans to reissue this Instruction when final regulations are published to revise the criteria for determining acceptable grains/breads products so that some additional items may be credited to this group. However, no changes are being made in the regulations regarding what constitutes this component.

Milk

As with the meat/meat alternate component, this proposal does not change the current minimum serving sizes for fluid milk for any of the age/grade groups. Readers should note that section 107 of Pub. L. 103–448 included a provision modifying the requirement that fluid whole milk and fluid unflavored low-fat milk be offered as part of all reimbursable lunches. The new statutory milk requirement at section 9(a)(2) of the NSLA, 42 USC 1758(a)(2), will be addressed in a separate rulemaking.

School Lunch Component Chart

To reflect these proposed changes to the school lunch pattern, the proposed rule would make a number of revisions to the table entitled "School Lunch Pattern-Per Lunch Minimums" in § 210.10(c). First, the title of the chart would be renamed "Minimum Quantities," since some of the quantity requirements are cumulative over the course of the school week. Secondly, the age/grade groups are the same as discussed above for the nutrition standards, except that the minimum portions for children ages one to two who may participate are included for easy reference. (Readers should note that these minimums are the same as those now in use.) Furthermore, schoolage children have been separated into two groups: (a) kindergarten through grade 6 and (b) grades 7 through 12. School food authorities also have the option of using alternate portion sizes established for children in kindergarten through grade 3. Readers should note, however, that the current recommendation to provide children in grades 7 through 12 with three ounces of meat/meat alternate would be deleted. This revision is intended to ensure that the chart reflects only the proposed regulatory revisions. It has no effect on the minimum portions that schools must offer. In addition, the chart has been revised to incorporate the proposed increases in the minimum portions of fruits and vegetables and the number of servings of grains/breads.

Changes to the School Breakfast Program

In the June 10, 1994, rulemaking, the Department also proposed to amend the nutrition requirements for the SBP. As under the NSLP, the SBP would be required to comply with the Dietary Guidelines and with the RDA and calories levels adjusted appropriately. Breakfasts would be required to meet one-fourth of the RDA (consistent with the current design of the breakfast meal pattern) and would have to provide fewer calories than lunches. The current age/grade group for breakfast is retained because of its familiarity. Again, only the chart reflecting the RDA and calorie levels for the SBP is proposed herein. The chart "Calorie and Nutrient Levels for School Breakfasts" is contained in § 220.8(a)(2).

Changes to the SBP Meal Components

As with the proposed school lunch pattern, the Department is not proposing to reduce the portion size for any of the components of school breakfasts. The following are the specific changes the Department is proposing to the current meal pattern components for school breakfasts:

Meat/Meat Alternate or Grains/Breads (the New Name for Bread/Bread Alternate)

The current requirement for two servings of meat/meat alternate or two servings of grains/breads or one serving of each remains the same. However, school food authorities are encouraged to offer children in grades 7 through 12 an additional serving of the grains/ breads component per day. This optional increase in the number of servings is intended to provide sufficient calories to meet the needs of the adolescent child, especially adolescent males, when the fat content of the breakfast is modified to be consistent with the Dietary Guidelines. To this end, the Department emphasizes that meeting the nutrient requirements of the grades 7 through 12 with the single pattern for kindergarten through grade 12 will be difficult. It is important that school food authorities recognize this and make an effort to offer high calorie, nutrient dense foods in the breakfast menu.

Vegetables/Fruits

There are no proposed changes in the minimum portions currently required for children in any age group.

Milk

There are no proposed changes in the requirements for the amount of fluid