

USDA-Certified Nutritional Analysis Software

All NutriStudents K-12 USDA-compliant, Registered Dietitian-certified menus are nutritionally verified in NutriKids, a USDA-certified nutritional analysis software. It is one of about 18 different nutritional analysis or menu planning software programs. These programs simply provide accurate calculation of the nutritional content of recipes comprising weekly menus, ensuring the nutrient totals fall within USDA guidelines. NutriKids, owned by Heartland Payment Systems, is the largest and one of the oldest nutritional analysis programs. Because some users are required by their state to PrimeroEdge, another nutritional analysis software, NutriStudents K-12 also licenses this program.

By using NutriKids to verify the 45 weeks of student-approved menus, NutriStudents K-12 has already done the required nutrient analysis for its clients. This saves foodservice directors an incredible amount of time and effort spent calculating the nutritional content of each menu day and week when attempting to create USDA-compliant menu weeks.

Perhaps the most important point: NutriStudents K-12 is not a nutritional analysis or a menu planning software. NutriStudents K-12 is a self-operated, plug & play foodservice platform using a number of different software components, including USDA-certified nutrient analysis software, in creating the NutriStudents K-12 menu, training and resources platform.

In other words, a school that is following NutriStudents K-12 menus (each of which is 100% certified by a Registered Dietitian) can be absolutely certain of being fully compliant with all USDA nutritional requirements, whether or not they use any nutrient analysis software.

As an aside, many companies and organizations (including USDA and even NutriKids) offer hundreds or even thousands of different menu items to schools. Many, however, are not nutritionally balanced, and in and of themselves require nutritional analysis software verification to ensure they meet USDA nutritional requirements. While well-intentioned, these one-off recipes still require foodservice directors to conduct nutritional analysis and have no assurance of increasing student participation.

Any district/school can be certain they will be totally covered with USDA compliance for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks as well as their administrative reviews with NutriStudents K-12, whether or not they use any nutritional analysis software.

Schools already using nutritional analysis software will find NutriStudents K-12 adds tremendous value to their other software program, saving them tremendous time while increasing participation rates as they enhance their lunch program and eliminate menu fatigue by adding these student-tested and approved menus to their rotation.