IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE FOR UPDATING THE SCHOOL MEAL STANDARDS FINAL RULE

School meals will continue to include fruits and vegetables, emphasize whole grains, and give kids the right balance of nutrients for healthy, tasty meals. For the first time, schools will focus on products with less added sugar, especially in school breakfast.

- **Spring 2024**
  - USDA issues final rule on long-term school nutrition standards after listening to public feedback and following recommendations from the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

- **Fall 2024**
  - **Flavored Milk**
    - No changes to flavored milk standards.
  - **Additional Menu Options**
    - Make it easier for schools to offer local, vegetarian, and culturally appropriate menu items.

- **Fall 2025**
  - **Added Sugars**
    - Limit on added sugars in cereals, yogurt, and milk.
  - **Flavored Milk**
    - Allow flavored milk with limits on added sugars.

- **Fall 2026**
  - No required changes; schools can voluntarily continue to gradually reduce amount of added sugars and sodium.

- **Fall 2027**
  - **Added Sugars**
    - No more than 10% of the weekly calories.
  - **Sodium**
    - 10% reduction for breakfast.
    - 15% reduction for lunch.