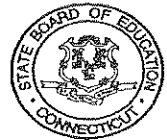




STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**TO:** Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Child Care Center Sponsors

**FROM:** John Frassinelli, Chief   
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

**DATE:** February 9, 2016

**SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum No. 3C-16**  
**I. School Area Eligibility Data for At-Risk After-School Meals Programs**  
**II. Effects of Busing on Area Eligibility in the CACFP**

**I. School Area Eligibility Data for At-Risk After-School Meals Programs**

Attached for your information is the current list of area eligible schools for At-Risk After-School Meals Programs (e.g., at-risk snack/supper programs). This list includes schools where 50% or more of the enrolled children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals in the National School Lunch Program in the month of October 2015. The new school data is effective **February 1, 2016**, and would impact:

- programs initiating an at-risk after-school snack/supper program; and
- the re-determination of programs whose current eligibility was based on October 2010 school data distributed in 2011.

The new list is based on school data from the month of October 2015 and reflects additions and deletions of schools since last year.

The following towns and schools have been added to the list since last year:

<u>Town</u>	<u>School(s)</u>
Brooklyn	Brooklyn Middle School
East Haven	East Haven High School
Montville	Charles E. Murphy School
Norwalk	Marvin Elementary School Roton Middle School Silvermine Elementary School
Plainfield	Moosup Elementary School Plainfield Central School Plainfield Memorial School
Stafford	West Stafford School
Stamford	Hart School Westhill High School
Stratford	Stratford High School
Torrington	Torrington Middle School
Vernon	Northeast School Skinner Road School
West Haven	Washington School
Winchester	Batcheller Elementary School Mary P. Hinsdale School Pearson Middle School
Windsor Locks	North Street School

The following towns and schools have either closed or no longer meet the 50 percent enrollment requirements for area eligibility:

<u>Town</u>	<u>School(s)</u>
Bridgeport	Winthrop School
Danbury	Broadview Middle School King Street Primary School Pembroke School Shelter Rock School
Enfield	Hazardville Memorial School
Hamden	Dunbar Hill School
Meriden	Thomas Hooker School
Middletown	Snow School
New Haven	Clemente Leadership School Troup Magnet Academy of Sciences School
Stratford	Lordship School

#### Community Eligibility Provision

As an alternative to collecting individual applications for free and reduced-price meals, the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) allows schools and local education agencies with a high percentage of low-income children to offer free meals to all students. Qualifying schools serve free lunch and breakfast through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program. School districts electing CEP must continue to provide to the NSLP State agency a list of schools under its jurisdiction in which 50 percent or more of enrolled children have been determined eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

Area eligibility determinations based on data from schools electing CEP as part of a group of schools or a school district must still use the individual school data rather than districtwide data for CACFP at-risk after-school centers. These individual school data are obtained by multiplying the most current school level identified student percentage (ISP) by the 1.6 factor. If the result is equal to or greater than 50 percent, meal sites located in the attendance area of the school are area eligible. If a school electing CEP collects alternate household income information to be used for other purposes, school data based on these applications may not be used to determine area eligibility.

#### **II. Effects of Busing on Area Eligibility in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has noted that a potential barrier to at-risk program participation can arise when school children in public school systems are assigned (by way of busing) to a school outside the attendance area of their neighborhood school.

Busing can have the effect of causing a site located in an area in which poor economic conditions exist to be designated as ineligible based on enrollment data which has been adjusted to reflect student reassignments. This situation may occur in any program in which site eligibility is based on the percentage of children eligible for free and reduced-price meals in the National School Lunch Program

(NSLP). It is especially significant to sites applying to participate in the Summer Food Service Program, the At-risk After-School Meals Program under the CACFP, the Seamless Summer Option and the After-School Snack Program under the NSLP. This is because the eligibility of meal service sites for these situations is generally associated with the neighborhood school where the children live rather than where children actually attend school.

To address this issue, the USDA has determined that in situations where public school districts routinely bus children from their neighborhood school to other schools, site eligibility based on school data may be determined using one of two methods. The program sponsor may determine eligibility based on the enrollment/attendance data obtained for:

- the school the children attend and are bused to; or
- the school the children would have attended were it not for the district's busing policy (the neighborhood school where the children live).

Program sponsors may determine a site to be area eligible in situations as described above only if the school food authority is able to document the percentage of children eligible for free and reduced-price meals at each school before and after students are reassigned. The same method of determining site eligibility must be used for all sites participating under that program sponsor to avoid duplicate counting.

In all cases involving districtwide busing, the CSDE Child Nutrition Unit should be contacted for guidance.

Please contact Susan Boyle at 860-807-2074, Celia Cordero at 860-807-2076 or Benedict Onye at 860-807-2080 if you have any questions about this information.

JF:shb

Attachment

Important: This is a numbered Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) operational memorandum that contains important program information. Please read carefully and retain in a binder for future reference. All CSDE operational memoranda are posted on the CSDE's [Operational Memoranda for the CACFP Web page](#).