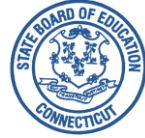




STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**TO:** Sponsors of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs

**FROM:** John D. Frassinelli, Division Director  
School Health, Nutrition and Family Services

**DATE:** July 29, 2022

**SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum No. 13-22**  
Carryover of a Student's Eligibility for School Year 2022-23

National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) regulations, 7 CFR 245.6(c)(2), require that a student's eligibility from the preceding school year be used to determine eligibility for the first 30 operating days of the new school year, or until a new eligibility determination is made in the new school year, whichever comes first. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) requested and was approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to waive these regulations for the carryover period during school year (SY) 2022-23. Therefore, school food authorities (SFAs) that operated under the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the NSLP in SY 2021-22 and do not have eligibility determinations from SY 2021-22 may use the most recent free and reduced-price determinations between SY 2019-20 and 2020-21 during the 30-day carryover period of SY 2022-23.

Since Connecticut SFAs were expected to collect free and reduced-price applications, conduct direct certification, and perform verification during SY 2021-22, SFAs may use either of the two carryover period options below. Regardless of the option selected, SFAs must be able to maintain the appropriate documentation of a student's eligibility status for audit purposes.

1. Use the student's eligibility status (free, reduced, or paid) as of June 2022 as the eligibility that will be carried over for the first 30 operating days into SY 2022-23, starting with the first day of school.
2. If a household did not submit an application for a child or a direct certification determination was not made in SY 2021-22, the SFA may go back to the student's most recently approved eligibility status (free, reduced or paid) between SY 2019-20 and SY 2020-21. If a household submitted an application in SY 2021-22 and was determined to be over income for free or reduced-price meals, the determination in the carryover period for SY 2022-23 would be *paid* eligibility status.

**Note:** For SY 2022-23, all SFAs must identify each student's individual eligibility status (free, reduced or paid) through free and reduced-price applications or direct certification. Meals must

be claimed based on the student's eligibility for free, reduced, or paid meals. The provision of meals at no cost to all students through the SSO or the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) at any time since March 2020 does not confer a free eligibility status to individual students.

Questions may be directed to your [school nutrition consultant](#).

JDF:tdd

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 School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.