



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**TO:** Sponsors of School Child Nutrition Programs (including the Special Milk Program)

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

**DATE:** August 5, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Operational Memorandum No. 15-22  
Determining Eligibility for Severe Need Reimbursement for the School Breakfast Program and the Two-cent Differential Reimbursement for the National School Lunch Program in School Year 2022-23

Schools are eligible for severe need breakfast reimbursement rates if 40 percent or more of National School Lunch Program (NSLP) lunches served to students at school during the second preceding school year were at the free or reduced-price rate (42 U.S.C. 1773(d) and 7 CFR 220.9(d)). Schools are eligible for the two-cent differential if 60 percent or more of the NSLP lunches served in the second preceding school year were at the free or reduced-price rate (42 U.S.C. 1753(b)(2)). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) recognizes that schools participating in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and/or the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the NSLP during SY 2020-21 and/or 2021-22, under the nationwide waivers, served meals at no cost to all students and might not have the complete student eligibility data needed to determine eligibility for severe need breakfast rates and the two-cent differential for lunch.

For SY 2022-23, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) will use the guidelines below to determine SFA eligibility for severe need breakfast and lunch.

- SFAs that operated the NSLP during SY 2020-21 and 2021-22 have second prior year (SY 2020-21) data available to determine eligibility for severe need. The percentage of lunches served free or at the reduced-price during SY 2020-21 will be used to determine eligibility for severe need breakfast and lunch.
- SFAs that did not operate the NSLP during SY 2020-21 do not have second prior year (SY 2020-21) data to determine eligibility for severe need. The percentage of lunches served free or at the reduced price during SY 2019-20 through the month the school operated the NSLP (March 2020) will be used to determine eligibility for severe need breakfast and lunch.

Federal severe need eligibility for SY 2022-23 will be determined through the Connecticut Online Application and Claiming System for Child Nutrition Programs (CNP System) and is based on a SFA's program participation in SY 2020-21 and free and reduced-price lunches served, as applicable.

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

JDF:saa

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