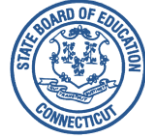
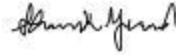




STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Sponsors of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP)

FROM: Shannon Yearwood, Bureau Chief 
Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs

DATE: July 28, 2023

SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum No. 16-23
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 2023-24

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 Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the NSLP during school year (SY) 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 rates in SY 2023-24.

For SY 2023-24, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) will use the guidelines below to determine each SFA's eligibility for severe need breakfast and lunch.

1. SFAs that operated the NSLP during SY 2021-22 have second prior year (SY 2021-22) data available to determine eligibility for severe need reimbursement for SY 2023-24. The percentage of lunches served free or at the reduced-price during SY 2021-22 will be used to determine eligibility for severe need breakfast and lunch for SY 2023-24.
2. SFAs that did not operate the NSLP during SY 2021-22 do not have second prior year (SY 2021-22) data to determine eligibility for severe need. The percentage of lunches served free or at the reduced-price from SY 2022-23 (July 1, 2022, through March 31, 2023) will be used to determine eligibility for severe need breakfast and lunch for SY 2023-24.

3. For SFAs with sites operating under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), the school's individual identified student percentage (ISP) will be used to determine the site eligibility for severe need breakfast and lunch.
 - If the CEP school operated the NSLP in SY 2021-22, the school's individual ISP from SY 2021-22 will be used to determine the site eligibility for severe need breakfast and lunch for SY 2023-24.
 - If the CEP school did not operate the NSLP in SY 2021-22, the school's individual ISP from SY 2022-23 will be used to determine the site eligibility for severe need breakfast and lunch for SY 2023-24.

Federal severe need eligibility for SY 2023-24 will be determined through the Connecticut Online Application and Claiming System for Child Nutrition Programs (CNP System) and is based on the SFA's program participation in SY 2021-22 and the number of free and reduced-price lunches served, as applicable.

SKY: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.