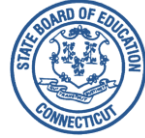




STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Potential 2023 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Sponsors

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

DATE: February 7, 2023

SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum No. 02-23 – SFSP
Guidance for Residential Camps and Closed Enrolled Sites

1. Application for Free and Reduced-price Meals

Residential Camps and sponsors with Closed Enrolled Sites must revise and distribute income eligibility applications for free meals for summer 2023. Please note that the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) revises and releases the *Family Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals or Free Milk* each year on July 1. **Sponsors must distribute the most current version.** This form is available in English and Spanish under “[Income Eligibility Forms](#)” in the “Apply” section of the CSDE’s Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) webpage.

2. Income Guidelines for Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced-Price Meals

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) income guidelines are only for use by sponsors to determine income eligibility categories. Sponsors should not distribute the income guidelines to parents or households. **Sponsors must make eligibility determinations using the income guidelines that are in effect at the time the eligibility determination is made.** All children who are income eligible for either free or reduced-price meals during the school year are eligible to receive free meals through the SFSP at Residential Camps and Closed Enrolled Sites, not in area eligible locations. A child receiving free meals during the 2022-23 school year does not confer automatic income eligibility for free meals. The current guidelines, *[Income Guidelines for Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced-Price Meals, effective July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023](#)*, are available on the CSDE’s [Income Guidelines for Child Nutrition Programs](#) webpage. The guidelines for July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, will be available on the same webpage in June 2023.

3. Sample Parent Letter

Sponsors must distribute a letter to parents/households with the income eligibility application. **Sponsors must distribute the most current version.** Sample parent letters in English and Spanish are available under “[Income Eligibility Forms](#)” in the “Apply” section of

the CSDE's SFSP webpage.

4. Documenting Eligibility of Residential Camps and Closed Enrolled Sites, not in area eligible locations in the SFSP

Sponsors may document eligibility of a Residential Camp or Closed Enrolled Site by:

- obtaining lists of names and eligibility status of enrolled students for free and reduced-price meals from schools where the students receive school lunch or breakfast; or
- collecting completed income eligibility applications from the parent/guardian of each enrolled child.

Note: Federal regulations permit all sponsors to use school-based eligibility information to document eligibility as noted above. The local school food authority does not need parental consent forms to provide this information to SFSP sponsors.

5. Enrollment Information Form

Documentation for Closed Enrolled Sites must show the number of children enrolled and the number of children who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Residential Camps must provide this information for each camp session. All documentation must be provided to the CSDE as soon as it is available, but no later than the date the claim is submitted. Enrollment forms in English and Spanish are available under "[Income Eligibility Forms](#)" in the "Apply" section of the CSDE's SFSP webpage.

Questions regarding this memorandum may be directed to the [Summer Meals Team Member](#).

JDF:tlm

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 for the SFSP are posted on the CSDE's [Operational Memoranda for the SFSP](#) webpage.