Certification of Eligibility Webinar August 27, 2013

Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division Illinois State Board of Education

Please be patient, the webinar will begin shortly.

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Carryover of Previous Year's Eligibility

 LEAs are <u>required</u> to carryover eligibility from the previous year for 30 operating days into the subsequent school year OR until a new determination has been made, whichever comes first.

For example:

- Student was FREE on the last day of school the prior school year. As of the first day of school, the student is NOT directly certified and no HEA has been submitted for this student.
- If the student is served a reimbursable meal, such meal is claimed free.
- On day 16 of school, the household submits a HEA and the school processes the application. The student is eligible for reduced price meals. Notify the household and then the benefits are changed to reduced price benefits after notification.
- Changed Scenario As of day 31 of school, the student is NOT directly certified and no HEA has been submitted for this student. If the student is served a reimbursable meal, such meal must be claimed as PAID.
- Although schools are NOT required to notify households that carryover period has ended, we have a sample form for this purpose available at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/pdf/NTRCE.pdf.
- Household is responsible for any meal charges incurred until new application is received and approved. Refer to your Local school policy on charging meals.

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Sample School Timeline for Certification of Meal Benefits



- 1. On or near July 1, access the *Electronic Direct Certification System* to conduct direct certification of SNAP/TANF students.
- 2. Enter or upload eligibility data for these students including the extension of free meal benefits to ALL household members.
- 3. Notify these households of their free meal benefits.
- 4. At the beginning of the school year, after July 1, distribute to all households, excluding those directly certified, the letter to household, Household Eligibility Application (HEA), and application instructions.

Sample School Timeline for Certification of Meal Benefits



- 5. If a HEA with SNAP/TANF case number is submitted, please check the *Electronic Direct Certification System* to determine if the student may be directly certified.
 - If a match is found, status should be FREE based on direct certification (SNAP, TANF, Foster or Medicaid).
 - If a match is NOT found, process HEA at face value.
- 6. Within 10 days of receipt of HEA, process the application.
- 7. Enter or upload eligibility data for these students including the extension of SNAP/TANF/Medicaid categorical eligible meal benefits to ALL household members.
- 8. Notify these households of their meal benefits.
 - If meal benefits are denied, notice MUST be in writing.
- **9.** Monthly, access the *Electronic Direct Certification System* to conduct direct certification of SNAP/TANF/Foster/Medicaid students.

Full-Year Eligibility

- Eligibility begins on the date of certification, whether direct certification report date or processed date of the HEA, and remains in effect for the rest of that school year and for carryover into the subsequent school year.
- Households are NOT required to report changes in income, household size, receipt of benefits, or homeless/migrant status.
- Exceptions to full-year eligibility occur when:
 - The initial eligibility determination was incorrect, maybe due to a confirmation review or audit/review.
 - Verification of household eligibility does not support the level of benefits for which the household was approved.

USDA Policy Extending SNAP/TANF Eligibility for Free Meal Benefits

- Extending eligibility means that ALL children in the household who are participating in a Child Nutrition Program are categorically eligible for free meal/milk benefits if any child or ADULT receiving SNAP/TANF/Income-eligible Medicaid benefits is a member of that household.
 - Extension of benefits is for SNAP/TANF/Income Eligible Medicaid eligibility
 ONLY! There is NO extension of benefits for Foster Child Status.
 - NOTE: The *Electronic Direct Certification System* contains only children aged 18 years old and younger.
- Sample form to document the extension of SNAP/TANF benefits is ISBE 54-45.
 - It is used to document extension of SNAP/TANF/Income Eligible Medicaid Direct Certification benefits.
 - If there is an extension of SNAP/TANF HEA benefits, the HEA serves this purpose.

How Are Meal Benefits Determined?

- Direct Certification
 - Certification of SNAP/TANF/Income-eligible Medicaid/Foster
 Child benefits via *Electronic Direct Certification System*

OR

- Categorical Eligibility
 - Homeless, migrant, runaway, foster child or Head Start listing

OR

- Household Eligibility Application (HEA)
 - SNAP/TANF application
 - Income application
 - Foster child application

Categorical Eligibility—Head Start, Foster Child, Homeless, Migrant, and Runaway Children

- Dated list with each child's name and signed by appropriate person
 - Head Start director
 - Foster Care Agency Director
 - Homeless education liaison
 - Shelter director
 - Migrant education coordinator
 - Runaway and homeless youth service provider
 OR
- Application with child's name and signature of appropriate person
- Sample form is available at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/pdf/50-73 hmls cert mm.pdf

Distribution of the Household Eligibility Application (HEA)

- The three (3) page HEA are posted online at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/household_eligibility.htm and consists of:
 - Letter to Household,
 - Household Eligibility Application, and
 - Application Instructions.
- Each school year, at the beginning of school, each LEA should distribute the HEA to all households that are not directly certified for meal benefits.
- If the LEA accepts electronic applications, the LEA distributes a letter that provides directions to the household how to access the system to apply for meal benefits. This letter MUST state that any household may request a paper HEA and how.
- HEAs cannot be
 - Sent home at the end of the school year for next year, or
 - Accepted and processed by the LEAs before the beginning of the federally defined school year which begins July 1, with the exception of year-round schools.

Household Eligibility Application (HEA)

- Over the next few slides, we will take a closer look at each section of the HEA.
- We will then go through each type of HEA that might be submitted to the LEA, and discuss the process used for approval/denial of such HEA.

APPLICATION FOR FREE MILKIMEAL AND RE	DUCED-PRICE ME	ALS—Complete C	ne Application Per	Household Per S	chod D	istrict. Ins	studiora	on back		80	HOOL D	SE ONLY		
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Date	Printed	Name of Adult H	lousehold Membe	-		- (Signature	e of Adi	ult Hous	sehold M	lember		_	
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		rk one or more ra	cial identities											

All Household Members								1	Check	if Error Pro	one Applica	tion
AMES OF ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS irst, Middle Initial, Last	(for Student only) School Name	(for Student only) Grade	SNAP OR TANF CASE NUMBER Skip to Part 4 if you list a SNAP or TANF case number. At least one SNAP/TANF must be provided below.									
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4. Signature and Social Security Nu	mber (Adult mu	st sign)						
An adult household member must sign the ap n Part 1, the adult signing the form must also or mark the <i>I do not have a social security n</i> <i>l certify (promise) all information on this app ficials may verify (check) the Information. I to</i>					ial Security Numbe		I do not have security numb nation I give. I und d.	oer.
			lousehold Member				sehold Member	

5. Contact Information (Optional)	
Work Telephone Number (Include Area Code) Home Telephone Number (Include Area Code) Home Address (Number, Street, Cit	ity, State, Zip Code)
6. Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities (Optional)	
Mark one ethnic identity: Mark one or more racial identities: ☐ Hispanic/Latino ☐ Asian ☐ Black or African American ☐ Na ☐ Not Hispanic/Latino ☐ White ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native	ative Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
7. Sharing Application Information With All Kids—All Kids program is a complete healthcare program for every child in	Illinois.
No! I DO NOT want information from my Household Eligibility Application shared with All Kids. Sign here:	

		- THE	FOLLOWIN	G SECTION	S ARE FOI	R SCHOOL USE ONL	Y-		
INITIAL DETERMINATION									
TOTAL INCOME \$P	Per: Week	Every 2 Weeks	Twice a	☐ Month	Year	NUMBER IN Household:	CHANGE IN STATUS:		Date
LEAs must annualize income only Annual Income Conversion We				ALL A ROLL OF THE PARTY OF THE		Month X 12			12.57
migrant] SNAP or TAN] foster child] household's ir	F		pased on: old's income of Determining	in	ed—Reason: come too high complete application on-qualifying SNAP/TANF		Date Withdrawn: Date:	
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CONFIRMATION Prior to verifi	ication and only	for those app	lications selec	ted for verifica	tion.) Si	gnature of Confirming Of	ficial		_Date:
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SNAP/TANF Household Eligibility Application

SNAP/TANF HEA must contain:

- Names of all household members including the child(ren) who will receive benefits
- Accurate SNAP/TANF case number for at least one household member (child or adult) of the household. Applications with Medicaid case numbers are NOT accepted for meal benefits. Income Eligible Medicaid may only be used if found via electronic direct certification in participating LEAs ONLY!
 - The case number MUST be a qualifying number based on ISBE guidance.
- Signature of an adult household member
- NOTE: If a HEA with SNAP/TANF case number is submitted to an LEA, please check the Electronic Direct Certification System to determine if the student may be directly certified.
 - If found, status should be FREE based on direct certification.
 - If NOT found, process HEA at face value.

Acceptable SNAP/TANF Case ID Numbers

- May be ANY Household Member's SNAP/TANF Case ID Number
- Case numbers must contain 10–13 digits in the following format: XX-XXX-XXX(XXX)
- Case numbers starting with:
 - 04 or 06 means the person is receiving TANF and is eligible for free meals.
 - 08 means the person is receiving SNAP and is eligible for free meals.
 - 91, 92, 93, 94, or 96 ALONG WITH a 22 as the 6th and 7th digits means the person is receiving medical benefits along with SNAP and based on the latter, is eligible for free meals.
 - 91, 92, 93, 94, or 96 ALONG WITH a 00 as the 6th and 7th digits means the person MAY be receiving SNAP and TANF in addition to medical benefits; however, further information is needed.

Acceptable SNAP/TANF Case ID Numbers

- Example: 91-226-22-F19876 qualifies for free meal benefits.
- Example: 91-226-00-F19876 does not qualify for free meal benefits without additional documentation. See Exception details in Handbook.
- Example: 98-226-22-F19876 does not qualify for free meal benefits.

Income Applications



- HEAs based on income must contain:
 - Names of all household members including the child(ren) who will receive benefits
 - All household members receiving incomes and the frequency of each income
 - Signature and last 4 digits of the social security number of the adult household member signing the application
- Compare income to appropriate Income Eligibility Guidelines (IEGs). (see next slide)
- Special Household Eligibility Application Situations are identified in the Administrative Handbook available online.

Income Conversion

When income is reported on a HEA:

If only one income is reported or all income at the same frequency (weekly, every two weeks, etc.), DO NOT CONVERT. Add the income amounts and compare to the IEGs.

• If incomes are received by the household at different intervals, all income must be annualized. Do not round converted income.

- Conversion Figures
 - Weekly X 52
 - Every two weeks X 26
 - Twice a month X 24
 - Monthly X12

FISCAL YEAR 2014 INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

The United States Department of Agriculture has issued the following income guidelines for the period July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014:

Income Eligibility Guidelines
Effective from July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014

		130% Fe	Free Meals deral Poverty (Guideline					duced-Price Me deral Poverty (
Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly	Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	14,937	1,245	623	575	288	1	21,257	1,772	886	818	409
2	20,163	1,681	841	776	388	2	28,694	2,392	1,196	1,104	552
3	25,389	2,116	1,058	977	489	3	36,131	3,011	1,506	1,390	695
4	30,615	2,552	1,276	1,178	589	4	43,568	3,631	1,816	1,676	838
5	35,841	2,987	1,494	1,379	690	5	51,005	4,251	2,126	1,962	981
6	41,067	3,423	1,712	1,580	790	6	58,442	4,871	2,436	2,248	1,124
7	46,293	3,858	1,929	1,781	891	7	65,879	5,490	2,745	2,534	1,267
8	51,519	4,294	2,147	1,982	991	8	73,316	6,110	3,055	2,820	1,410
For each additional family member, add	5,226	436	218	201	101	For each additional family member, add	7,437	620	310	287	144

The following is the definition of income:

Income is defined as any monies earned before any deductions such as income taxes, social security taxes, insurance premiums, charitable contributions, and bonds. It includes the following: (1) monetary compensation for services including wages, salary, commissions, or fees; (2) net income from non-farm self-employment; (3) net income from farm self-employment; (4) social security; (5) dividends or interest on savings or bonds or income from estates or trusts; (6) net rental income; (7) public assistance or welfare payments; (8) unemployment compensation; (9) government civilian employee or military retirement or pensions or veteran payments; (10) private pensions or annuities; (11) alimony or child support payments; (12) regular contributions from persons not living in the household; (13) net royalties; and (14) other cash income. Other cash income would include cash amounts received or withdrawn from any source including savings, investments, trust accounts, and other resources which would be available to pay the price of a child's meal.

FISCAL YEAR 2014 INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

The United States Department of Agriculture has issued the following income guidelines for the period July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014:

Income Eligibility Guidelines

Effective from July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014

	Free Meals 130% Federal Poverty Guideline							Reduced-Price Meals 185% Federal Poverty Guideline						
Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly	Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly			
1	14,937	1,245	623	575	288	1	21,257	1,772	886	818	409			
2	20,163	1,681	841	776	388	2	28,694	2,392	1,196	1,104	552			
3	25,389	2,116	1,058	977	489	3	36,131	3,011	1,506	1,390	695			
4	30,615	2,552	1,276	1,178	589	4	43,568	3,631	1,816	1,876	838			
5	35,841	2,987	1,494	1,379	690	5	51,005	4,251	2,126	1,962	981			
- 6	41,067	3,423	1,712	1,580	790	- 6	58,442	4,871	2,436	2,248	1,124			
7	46,293	3,858	1,929	1,781	891	7	65,879	5,490	2,745	2,534	1,267			
8	51,519	4,294	2,147	1,982	991	8	73,316	6,110	3,055	2,820	1,410			
For each additional family member, add	5,228	438	218	201	101	For each additional family member, add	7,437	620	310	287	144			

Example: Household of 4 with income received twice per month

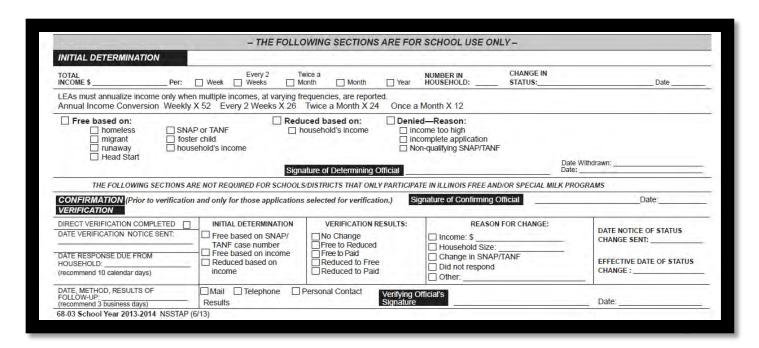
- Eligible for FREE if total income is \$1,276 or below
- Eligible for REDUCED if total income is \$1,277 \$1,816

Foster Child Household Eligibility Application

- Foster children, whose care and placement is the responsibility of the State or who is placed by a court with a caretaker household, are categorically eligible to receive free meals/milk.
- This may be documented via a categorical listing from a representative with a foster care placement agency or via the HEA.
- Please note that a separate HEA is no longer required for each foster child.
- Therefore, a HEA may contain a foster child and additional members of the household, resulting in two different eligibility statuses on the same HEA.

Approving HEAs

- HEAs must be processed (approved or denied by the LEA) within ten (10) working days of receipt.
- The determining official must:
 - Indicate the eligibility determination
 - Sign each HEA
 - Date each HEA the day it is approved/denied
 - If approved, benefits may not be received prior to the date of approval.



Incomplete Applications

The determining official cannot process an incomplete HEA.

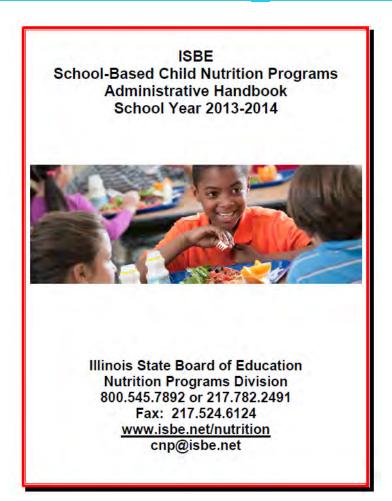
- Return copy of HEA to the household to obtain missing information.
 - If adult member signature is missing, HEA must be returned to obtain a signature.
 - Faxed HEA may be acceptable.
- Contact household and note missing information on the HEA.
 - All changes should be initialed and dated.

If a Household Is Denied Benefits

- The household must receive written notification including the following:
 - Reason for denial
 - Right to appeal
 - Instruction on how to appeal
 - Notification that the household may reapply at any time during the school year
- Sample denial/approval letter available online at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/pdf/DEAPLE.pdf.

ISBE School-Based Child Nutrition Programs Administrative Handbook – School Year 20132014 available online at

http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/sbn handbook/toc.htm



Upcoming Training Tuesday Webinars

- Verification Process and Summary Report
 - September 17, 2013



October 15, 2013



- The NEW Administrative Review Process SY2013-2014
 - November 19, 2013
- USDA Foods (Government Donated Commodities)
 - December 17, 2013
- More dates/topics to come through May 2014!

Contact Us

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