



Policy Updates

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TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

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National School Lunch Program



Updated 9/28/2023
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Updated Reduced-Price Breakfast Guidance



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School Breakfast Changes 2023-24 and 2024-2025 School Years

Starting September 1st, 2023* –
The 88th Texas Legislature allocated funding to cover the fee of reduced-price breakfast through the 2024-2025 school year.

* Reduced-price breakfasts served at no cost prior to September 1, 2023, will not be reimbursed by the state.

Reduced-Price Breakfast Guidance for Schools Operating Universal Breakfast

Universal Breakfast = all students served breakfast at no cost

- All UB schools, even those NOT mandated, will **automatically** receive \$0.30 per reduced price breakfast claimed.
- Must opt-out if you do not want State reimbursement
 - <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/publish?EQBCT=9e370e2880b84f998eed726cc8f2ecf2>
- Site application will show \$0.00 for both paid and reduced-price meals



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REMINDER!!!!

If charging for paid students for breakfast...

- Site application should reflect:
 - Paid breakfast – Actual cost being charged to students
 - Reduced-price breakfast – Amount of reimbursement expected from the state per reduced-price breakfast claimed.



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FAQs on Reduced-Price Breakfast guidance

<https://squaremeals.org/Programs/School-Breakfast-Program/Reduced-Price-Breakfast-Now-Free>



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Unanticipated School Closure Guidance



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Three Options for Serving Students during an Unanticipated School Closure

Option 1 – SFSP or SSO

- Only available for USCs occurring between October and April.
- All area eligibility requirements are in effect for SY 2023-2024.
- Non-congregate service, parent pick-up, and meal service time flexibilities available.
- Service can be at the closed school site, if available.
- Flexibilities available up to a maximum of 10 days unless an approved extension is granted.



Three Options for Serving Students during an Unanticipated School Closure

Option 2 – CACFP At-Risk

- Anytime in the school year up until June 30.
- One meal and one snack.
- All area eligibility requirements are in effect for SY 2023-2024.
- Non-congregate service, parent pick-up, and meal service time flexibilities available.
- Enrichment is waived.
- Service can be at the closed school site, if available.
- Flexibilities available up to a maximum of 10 days unless an approved extension is granted.



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Three Options for Serving Students during an Unanticipated School Closure

Option 3 – NSLP/SBP

- Anytime in the school year up until June 30.
- Virtual instruction must be provided.
- Non-congregate service, parent pick-up, and meal service time flexibilities available.
- Service can be at the closed school site, if available.
- Flexibilities available up to a maximum of 10 days unless an approved extension is granted.



New Resources Coming Soon!

- Three new notification forms (one for each option)
- Updated FAQs
- Updated ARM





Final Rule Lowering CEP Threshold



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Proposed Rule to Lower CEP Threshold

What's included?

Lowers the ISP threshold for schools to participate in CEP from 40% to 25%.

- Identified Student Percentage (ISP) = % of students certified eligible for free meals without the household application.
- Participation threshold = minimum ISP required to operate CEP.
- CEP may be implemented at individual school(s), groups of schools, or district-wide if the combined ISP is at or above the participation threshold.
- All students eat for free under CEP.
- Percentage of meals reimbursed at the free rate = $(ISP \times 1.6)$
- Four-year cycle



Final Rule to Lower CEP Threshold

What's included?

- The “grace” year threshold is 15% and over.
- Goes into effect for SY 2024-2025 based on ISP data submitted in the Spring CEP report.



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Final Rule to Lower CEP Threshold

Considerations

- ISP multiplier of 1.6 is not changing.
 - Ex. A school with 25% ISP operating CEP will receive free reimbursement rate for 40% of the meals claimed (25% x 1.6). The remaining 60% will be reimbursed at the paid rate.
- Any CNP program costs not covered by reimbursement must be paid for with non-Federal funds.





Verification Templates Suite



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Verification Letters Sample Templates Suite

- Consolidated document
 - Contains verification selection letters, information request forms, and results and adverse action letters
- Intuitively organized
 - TOC and new instructions
- Available in the following locations on SquareMeals:
 - NSLP Administration/Forms page
(<https://squaremeals.org/Programs/National-School-Lunch-Program/Administration-Forms>)
 - Application Verification page
(<https://squaremeals.org/Programs/National-School-Lunch-Program/Eligibility-and-Verification/Application-Verification>)



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To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

2. fax:

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

3. email:

program.intake@usda.gov

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