



## State of New Jersey

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To: School Business Administrators, Charter School Leads; Nonpublic School Administrators;  
Food Service Directors of Schools Participating in the School Nutrition Programs

From: Arleen Ramos-Szatmary, Coordinator *Arleen Ramos-Szatmary*  
School Nutrition Programs

Date: June 24, 2024

Subject: SY2024-2025 School Meals and Summer EBT Applications: Guidance, Resources and Trainings

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture is proud to provide the following guidance related to recent legislation, including the expansion of the Working Class Families Anti-Hunger Act signed by Governor Murphy on January 16, 2024 and the implementation of the Summer EBT Program.

**Expansion of the New Jersey Expanded Income Eligibility (NJEIE) Guidelines from 199% to 224% of the Federal Poverty Level:** Effective for the 2024 – 2025 School Year, the law requires **public and non-public** schools participating in the National School Lunch Program and/or federal School Breakfast Program to provide a school lunch and/or breakfast free of cost to students whose families have an annual household income of **up to 224 percent** of the federal poverty level, based on their application for free and reduced price school meals.

The State of New Jersey will provide participating public, charter and nonpublic schools with the difference between the USDA federal free rate of reimbursement and the USDA paid rate of reimbursement for NJEIE eligible students. Students who qualify will be categorized as Federal Paid **and** NJEIE Eligible. Both Student Information and Point of Sale Systems must separate federal school meal eligibility from state school meal eligibility, and account for this additional state benefit category as follows:

- 1.) Federally determined Free
- 2.) Federally determined Reduced
- 3.) Federally determined Paid; and
- 4.) Federally determined Paid and NJEIE

The [NJEIE Guidelines for SY 2024-2025](#) have been released and should be forwarded immediately to electronic application, student information and point of sale software vendors. SFAs should also note the following:

- The New Jersey Expanded Income Eligibility category applies only to the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs and does not include the Afterschool Snack Program or the Special Milk Program.
- Approved New Jersey Expanded Income Eligibility students will not count toward area eligibility in the

School Nutrition Programs, Child and Adult Care Food Program or Summer Food Service Program.

- New Jersey Expanded Income Eligibility reimbursements must be deposited into the non-profit school food service account.

**NJEIE Resources:** Please note the following resources revised specifically for SY 2024 – 2025:

- Letter to Notify Household of Eligibility – [English](#) (Form 70) and [Spanish](#) (Form 70s)
- [Edit Check Worksheet](#) (Form 40) and [Edit Check Worksheet for use with Commercial Vendors](#) (Form 37)
- Flyer for Parents to Encourage Submission of Applications – [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- [Steps to Determining NJEIE Flowchart](#) (Form 426)
- [Federal Income Guidelines for SY2024-2025](#) (Form 127)
- [NJEIE Guidelines for SY2024-2025](#) (Form 427)
- [Master Eligibility List](#) (Form 128) with DC Medicaid and NJEIE Columns
- [New Jersey SNA Video for Parents](#)

A reminder that NJEIE only applies to schools who collect School Meal Applications and operate under standard counting and claiming procedures. It does not apply to SFAs participating in district-wide CEP, the Special Milk Program, RCCIs, or detention centers.

**State Supplement for Reduced Price Meals for Nonpublic and Public School Students:** The expansion of the Working Class Families Anti-Hunger Act also appropriates additional funding to cover the student cost of reduced price breakfast and lunch meals served to **nonpublic** (*new!*) and public school students determined as reduced price eligible.

- Nonpublic SFAs should note that effective July 1, 2024, SFAs must no longer charge students falling under the reduced price category \$.40 for lunch and \$.30 for breakfast. All students determined as reduced price eligible will receive breakfast and lunch meals at no cost to the student. Please note that this law eliminates the cost of the reduced price meal to the student, but does not eliminate the reduced price category. SFAs must continue to maintain the total number of reduced price eligible students, the number of reduced price breakfasts and lunches claimed, and all internal recordkeeping practices related to the reduced price category. Reduced counts will continue to be required during submission of the monthly reimbursement voucher as if the costs were not being covered by State Law.
- SFAs with computerized Point of Sale software systems must make appropriate adjustments to ensure that their systems are still tracking and counting reduced price meals without charging the reduced price eligible students for the breakfast and lunch meals.
- This law does not extend to the Afterschool Snack Program.

**Summer EBT and Application Name Change:** Students who qualify for free and reduced price school meals also qualify for Summer EBT Benefits. The name of the application has changed to include this important program to *School Meals and Summer EBT Application*.

**Determining Officials Trainings Available for SFAs:** It is imperative that Determining Officials understand how to qualify and quantify eligible students. Please note that there are changes that require the determining official from **each nonpublic** school participating in the National School Lunch Program to attend a training session.

- The ***How to Determine the School Meals and Summer EBT Application Webinar*** will be held on **Wednesday, July 31, 2024** from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. To register for the webinar, click on the

following [link](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. The webinar will be recorded and available to view on-demand in SNEARS, under the *Training* link.

Two **live workshops** will also be held to review the significant changes resulting from the expansion of the Working Class Families' Anti-Hunger Act:

- **Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>** at the **Rutgers EcoComplex** located at 1200 Florence-Columbus Road, Bordentown NJ 08505
- **Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>** at the **Educational Services Commission of New Jersey**, Conference Center A, located at 1690 Stelton Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854

All live workshops will begin promptly at 10:00 AM and conclude by 1:00 PM. [Registration](#) is required.

Please ensure that the [Direct Certification for SY2024-2025 Webinar](#) has been viewed prior to attending the live webinar or the live workshops. The *How to Determine the School Meals and Summer EBT Application* training courses are built upon the information presented in this important training.

The NJDA commends the commitment, effort and time required of all school personnel to identify students eligible to receive school meals at no cost.

Questions may be directed to 609-984-0693.