



State of New Jersey

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To: County Business Administrators
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Food Service Directors

From: Rose Tricario, Director
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Date: September 4, 2012

Subject: Offering a Non-Pricing School Breakfast Program

The purpose of this memo is to clarify procedures to implement a non-pricing school breakfast program, which is where the schools would offer breakfast to all students at no charge.

Making sure that all students start their day with a nutritious breakfast is a priority for both USDA and the NJ Department of Agriculture. There is an abundance of research indicating that students who eat breakfast have better attendance and improved academic performance. Breakfast "after the bell", such as classroom breakfast, yields an increase in school breakfast participation. And, the ability to provide breakfast free to all students makes that increased level of participation even more significant.

If the Local Education Agency has high levels of free or reduced price eligibility (normally around 80% or higher) in their school meal programs, it is often financially viable for the LEA to implement a non-pricing breakfast program. It is an allowable cost to operate such a program if the cost of providing breakfast does not exceed the federal reimbursement. However, any cost differential between the cost of providing the breakfast meal and the federal reimbursement must be paid from non-federal sources.

It is important to note, however, that operating a non-pricing breakfast program does NOT mean all breakfasts can be claimed as free on the monthly reimbursement claims. It is still required to take accurate point of service counts of breakfasts served according to each student's eligibility status.

Another option for LEAs to consider when offering a non-pricing breakfast program, is to enroll in the Provision 2 option for breakfast. By so doing, each breakfast served would have to be claimed for reimbursement at the correct free, reduced price or paid status in the base year. Thereafter, for the following three years, a total breakfast count could be taken each day, and then percentages of eligibility as served in the base year get applied to those total counts in

order to determine the free, reduced price, and paid breakfast counts to enter on the monthly reimbursement claims.

In order to accommodate any Local Education Agencies that may wish to apply for the Provision 2 option for breakfast, we are extending the deadline to apply for the 2012-2013 school year until September 20, 2012. The application documents are posted on the SNEARS messages/memos page.

Thank you for all you do to provide the opportunity for New Jersey school children to be well fed and properly nourished to help them attain their highest possible level of academic achievement.