



State of Vermont
Vermont Department of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

TO: Approving Officials for Free and Reduced Price School Meals

FROM: Laurie M Colgan, Director, Child Nutrition Programs

DATE: July 28, 2010

SUBJECT: Free & Reduced Price Meals, Free Milk, and Approval & Verification Information

The Free & Reduced Price Meal and Milk application materials look a bit different this year. There is a separate section for Homeless, Migrant and Runaway youth on the application in Part 2; Part 3 more clearly requests income and the period in which it is earned, and the reduced price income guidelines are not included on the form.

HHS and USDA have not published the 2010-2011 Income Eligibility Guidelines for the upcoming school year which means that the guidelines that were used last year remain in effect until new ones are published. If USDA should publish new guidelines during the school year, we will notify you immediately and provide the new application materials and guidelines. In the event the new guidelines are posted during the school year, they will have no impact on applications that you have already approved as those applications are valid for the school year.

We are sending out the materials on a CD and posting them on the Department of Education, Child Nutrition Programs website. The USDA Eligibility Manual remains unchanged from last year; however the VT Appendix has been updated to include the necessary changes. As always, our staff members are available to answer any questions that are not covered in the handbook or in training sessions.

Reduced Price Breakfast Reimbursement – For the 2010 – 2011 school year, the legislature appropriated the funds that will cover the cost of a reduced price breakfast that the family would normally pay. Therefore, the Letter to Parents has been revised to indicate that students approved for reduced price meals will receive breakfast at no charge.

Direct Certification Information – The Direct Certification list is available to those with access to the Department’s web-based Student Census data report. The report will list students alphabetically by last name that are eligible for free meals because their household receives 3SquaresVT/Food Stamp program benefits. If you have questions or problems accessing the site, contact the Data Management & Analysis Team at 828-3777.

Training Schedule for Approving Officers and Verification Officials: A schedule and registration form for workshop sessions designed to prepare Approving Officials and Verification Officials for complying with current federal legislation is available on our website.
http://creator.zoho.com/cheryl_4.3.68/application-approval-verification-training/#Form:Introduction

(NOTE: Participation in a workshop session is especially important for new Approving Officials and Verification Officials. These workshops also serve as a valuable refresher for more experienced Approving Officials and Verification Officials. Training is required for those schools that had Verification errors in the last school year. Individual letters were sent out to those schools on the Ameliorative Action List indicating their training requirements.)

7/2010