Center for Students, Families & Communities

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POLICY STATEMENT

REAUTHORIZATION 2004: FOLLOW UP OF POLICY PROVISIONS

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INTRODUCTION

This memorandum provides clarification related to the following provisions of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-265):

- Direct certification and paper free and reduced-price meal applications
- Ability to decline verification of certain applications
- Completion of applications by local educational agency (LEA) officials

STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. DIRECT CERTIFICATION AND PAPER APPLICATIONS

1. Direct certification takes precedence over a paper free and reduced-price student meal application submitted by the household on behalf of a child.
2. In situations where a school/LEA receives both documentation for direct certification and an application submitted on behalf of the child, school officials should disregard the application.
3. Only students matched from the direct certification listing obtained from the Ohio Department of Education and/or Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services may be directly certified. An application must be obtained on behalf of any students not appearing on the direct certification listing in order to be considered for benefits.

B. ABILITY TO DECLINE VERIFICATION OF CERTAIN FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE STUDENT MEAL APPLICATIONS

1. LEAs have the option to decline to verify up to 5% of free and reduced-price price student meal

applications in their selected verification sample, as specified by Public Law 108-265.

2. LEAs should consider factors such as household stability and communication difficulties when declining applications.
3. If an application is removed, the LEAs must replace the application with another approved application.

C. COMPLETION OF FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE STUDENT MEAL APPLICATIONS BY LEA OFFICIALS

1. LEA officials may, in very limited cases, complete a free and reduced-price student meal application on behalf of a child if the LEA has information available to it that an individual household is eligible for free or reduced-price meals.
2. Information that may be available includes, for example, specific knowledge of household circumstances or written documentation from a school counselor or community official.

Please keep this memo on file for reference. A copy of the memo is also available for downloading from the Ohio Department of Education website at: http://www.ode.state.oh.us/. If you have any questions regarding this memo, please contact your NSLP regional consultant.

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File Attachment