

Provision 2

National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program

Overview

Traditionally, school officials distribute free and reduced price meal applications to households and make determinations of eligibility of free and reduced price meals. Provision 2 is an eligibility option for districts that reduces application burdens and simplifies counting and claiming procedures. Provision 2 requires that a school serve meals to participating students at no charge. Provision 2 can be offered for breakfast, lunch or for both breakfast and lunch.

Base Year

The first year of Provision 2 is known as the base year. Schools or districts must serve all students meals at no charge regardless of the free, reduced price, or paid eligibility category. Free and reduced price applications are distributed and eligibility determinations are made. Meals must be counted by type at the point of service and claimed according to eligibility status. Monthly or annual claiming percentages are determined for use in the non-base years.

Non-Base Years

Years two, three and four are referred to as non-base years. During non-base years, Provision 2 schools continue to offer meals at no charge to all children and count only the total number of meals served. School officials do not distribute applications or make eligibility determinations during non-base years. During non-base years, meal counts are claimed based on base year percentages of free, reduced price, and paid students from the base year and daily meal count checks must be completed.

End of Provision 2 Cycle

At the end of each four-year cycle, schools on Provision 2 can choose to apply for an extension, revert back to standard meal counting and claiming procedures or apply to operate a new Provision 2 base year. Regardless of what the school chooses, the district must inform the School Nutrition Unit of the planned activity at the end of the Provision 2 cycle. In addition, extensions and new base years require the approval of the School Nutrition Unit prior to implementing any changes or new activities. The School Nutrition Unit may approve four-year extensions if the income level of the school's population, as adjusted for inflation, has remained stable, declined or had only negligible improvement since the base year.

General Requirements

- Obtain School Nutrition Unit approval to operate the Provision 2 breakfast and/or lunch program in some or all schools
- Agree to serve all children in the participating schools free meals
- Provide public notification of the availability of free school meals to all affected households
- During the base year, establish claiming percentages by category based on eligibility determination
- During non-base years, apply these percentages to the total meal count
- Retain all base year records including applications, direct certification, categorically eligible student information, meal counts, verification and claiming percentages
- Complete direct certification for all students once per year, each October
- Agree to pay with funds from non-federal sources the difference between the cost of meals served at no charge to all participating children and federal reimbursement



Socio-Economic Data

Since applications are not obtained during non-base years for Provision 2, socio-economic data related to free and reduced price meals is not available. Any local education agency seeking to obtain socio-economic data for individual students is required to develop, conduct and fund this effort separate from and not under the auspices of the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.

Where can I learn more?

- School Nutrition Unit Provisional Programs
www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/nutriprovisionalprograms
- United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service
www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/nutriprovisionalprograms
- To view all CDE fact sheets, visit: www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/factsheetsandfaqs

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.