



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**TO:** Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Child Care Center Sponsors

**FROM:** John Frassinelli, Chief  
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

**DATE:** February 13, 2015

**SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum #08C-15**  
**I. School Area Eligibility Data for At-Risk Afterschool Meals Programs**  
**II. Effects of Busing on Area Eligibility in the CACFP**

**I. School Area Eligibility Data for At-Risk Afterschool Meals Programs**

Attached for your information is the current list of area eligible schools for At-Risk Afterschool Meals Programs (e.g., at-risk snack/supper programs). This list includes schools where 50% or more of the enrolled children are eligible for free or reduced price meals in the National School Lunch Program in the month of October 2014. The new school data is effective **February 1, 2015**, and would impact:

- programs initiating an at risk after school snack/supper program; and
- the re-determination of programs whose current eligibility was based on October 2009 school data distributed in 2010.

The new list is based on school data from the month of October 2014 and reflects additions and deletions of schools since last year.

The following towns and schools have been added to the list since last year:

<u>Town</u>	<u>School(s)</u>
Bristol	South Side School
Danbury	Broadview Middle School
	Great Plain School
	King Street Primary School
	Pembroke School
	Dunbar Hill School
Hamden	Shepard Glen School
Hartford	Culinary Arts Academy at Weaver
Meriden	Thomas Hooker School
Naugatuck	Hop Brook School
Norwalk	West Rocks Middle School
	Julia A. Stark School
	Newfield School
	Rippowam Middle School
	Stamford High School
	Turn of River School
	Westover School
Stratford	Chapel School
	Lordship School
West Haven	Alma E. Pagels School
	Edith F. Mackrille School
	Seth G. Haley Elementary School

The following towns and schools have either closed or no longer meet the 50 percent enrollment requirements for area eligibility:

<u>Town</u>	<u>School(s)</u>
Groton	Charles Barnum School Mary Morrison School
Hartford	Achievement First Hartford
Killingly	Killingly Intermediate School
Manchester	Bowers School
New Britain	Roosevelt Middle School
Norwalk	Marvin Elementary
Vernon	Northeast School
West Haven	Washington School
Winchester	Batcheller Elementary School Mary P. Hinsdale School Pearson Middle School

#### Community Eligibility Provision

As an alternative to collecting individual applications for free and reduced price meals, the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) allows schools and local education agencies with a high percentage of low-income children to offer free meals to all students. Qualifying schools serve free lunch and breakfast through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program. School districts electing CEP must continue to provide to the NSLP State agency a list of schools under its jurisdiction in which 50 percent or more of enrolled children have been determined eligible for free or reduced price meals.

Area eligibility determinations based on data from schools electing CEP as part of a group of schools or a school district must still use the individual school data rather than district-wide data for CACFP at-risk afterschool centers. These individual school data are obtained by multiplying the most current school level identified student percentage (ISP) by the 1.6 factor. If the result is equal to or greater than 50 percent, meal sites located in the attendance area of the school are area eligible. If a school electing CEP collects alternate household income information to be used for other purposes, school data based on these applications may not be used to determine area eligibility.

## **II. Effects of Busing on Area Eligibility in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has noted that a potential barrier to at risk program participation can arise when school children in public school systems are assigned (by way of busing) to a school outside the attendance area of their neighborhood school.

Busing can have the effect of causing a site located in an area in which poor economic conditions exist to be designated as ineligible based on enrollment data which has been adjusted to reflect student reassignments. This situation may occur in any program in which site eligibility is based on the percentage of children eligible for free and reduced-price meals in the National School Lunch Program

(NSLP); it is especially significant to sites applying to participate in the Summer Food Service Program, the **At Risk Afterschool Meals Program under the CACFP**, and the Seamless Summer Option and the Afterschool Snack Program under the NSLP. This is because the eligibility of meal service sites for these situations is generally associated with the neighborhood school where the children live rather than where children actually attend school.

To address this issue, USDA has determined that **in situations where public school districts routinely bus children from their neighborhood school to other schools, site eligibility based on school data may be determined using one of two methods.** The program sponsor may determine eligibility based on the enrollment/attendance data obtained for:

- the school the children attend and are bused to; or
- the school the children would have attended were it not for the district's busing policy (the neighborhood school where the children live).

Program sponsors may determine a site to be area eligible in situations as described above only if the school food authority is able to document the percentage of children eligible for free and reduced-price meals at each school before and after students are reassigned. The same method of determining site eligibility must be used for all sites participating under that program sponsor to avoid duplicate counting.

**In all cases involving district-wide busing, the Child Nutrition Unit should be contacted for guidance.**

Please contact Susan Boyle at 860-807-2074, Celia Cordero at 860-807-2076, Benedict Onye at 860-807-2080 or Terese Maineri at 860-807-2145 if you have any questions about this information.

JF:shb

Attachment