



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 15, 2018

SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum No. 4C-18
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 percent or more of the enrolled children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) in the month of October 2017. The new school data is effective **February 1, 2018**, and impacts:

- programs initiating an at-risk afterschool snack/supper program; and
- the redetermination of programs whose current eligibility was based on October 2012 school data distributed in 2013.

The new list is based on school data from the month of October 2017, 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>Schools</u>
Bristol	Chippens Hill Middle School
Brooklyn	Brooklyn Middle School
Danbury	Broadview Middle School
	King Street Primary School
	King Street Intermediate School
	Mill Ridge Primary School
	Morris Street School
	Pembroke Elementary School
	Shelter Rock School
East Hartford	Hockanum School
Meriden	Thomas Hooker School
Stafford	Stafford High School
	Staffordville School

<u>Town</u>	<u>Schools</u>
Stamford	Dolan School Hart School Julia A. Stark School K.T. Murphy School Rippowam Middle School Stamford High School Turn of River School Westover School
Windsor Locks	South 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>Schools</u>
Bridgeport	Winthrop School
East Hartford	Governor William Pitkin School
Manchester	Manchester High School
Middletown	Keigwin Annex
Montville	Charles E. Murphy School
Naugatuck	Hop Brook School Western School
New London	Nathan Hale School Winthrop School
Norwalk	Wolfpit School
Plainfield	Plainfield Memorial School
Torrington	Torrington 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 educational 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 NSLP and School Breakfast Program (SBP). School districts electing the CEP must continue to provide to the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) a list of schools under the district's 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 the CEP as part of a group of schools or a school district must still use the individual school data, rather than districtwide data for CACFP at-risk afterschool centers. 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 cannot be used to determine area eligibility.

II. Effects of Busing on Area Eligibility in the 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 that 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 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, the Seamless Summer Option under the NSLP, 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, the 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 districtwide busing, sponsors should contact the CSDE Child Nutrition Unit for guidance.

Questions may be directed to the CACFP consultants below.

CACFP ASSIGNMENTS	CONSULTANT	E-MAIL AND PHONE
Child and adult day care centers	Susan Boyle	susan.boyle@ct.gov 860-807-2074
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Child and adult day care centers Family day care homes	Celia Cordero	celia.cordero@ct.gov 860-807-2076

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Attachment

Important: This is a numbered Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) operational memorandum that contains important program information. Please read carefully and retain in a binder for future reference. All CSDE operational memoranda are posted on the CSDE's [Operational Memoranda for the CACFP](#) webpage.