

Provision 2

National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program

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 can be offered for breakfast only, for lunch only or for both school meals.

Overview

Provision 2 requires that the school serve meals to participating students at no charge while reducing application burdens to every 4 years and simplifies meal counting and claiming procedures by allowing a school to receive reimbursement based on claiming percentages.

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 and claimed by type of the point of service and meals claimed according to eligibility status. Monthly or annual claiming percentages are determined for use in the non-base years.

Non-Base Years

Years 2, 3 and 4 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, conduct direct certification or make eligibility determinations during non-base years.

Meal Counting

Provision 2 schools count the total number of reimbursable meals at the point of service on a daily basis. During non-base years, meal counts are claimed based on base year percentages of free, reduced price and paid students from the base year. Daily meal count checks must be completed.

General Requirements

- Obtain CDE 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
- Update current policy statement to reflect participation in Provision 2
- 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

End of Provision 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 the option chosen, the district must inform the state agency of the planned activity at the end of the Provision 2 cycle. In addition, extensions and new base years require the approval of the state agency prior to implementing any changes or new activities. The state agency 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.

Socio-Economic Data

Since applications are not obtained for the Provision 2 program, socio-economic data related to free and reduced price meals is not available. Any local educational agency seeking to obtain data from 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?

For additional information, please visit:

- CDE Office of School Nutrition
 - <http://www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/nutriprovisionalprograms>
- United States Department of Agriculture
 - http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/prov-1-2-3/provision1_2_3.htm

**The Colorado Department of Education
Office of School Nutrition**

1580 Logan Street, #760, Denver, CO 80203 • 303-866-6661 • nutrition@cde.state.co.us

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.