



# COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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**William J. Moloney**  
Commissioner of Education

**Roscoe Davidson**  
Deputy Commissioner

## MEMORANDUM

**CN06-G-05**

**TO:** Food Service Directors, Superintendents, and Sponsor Representatives

**FROM:** Dan McMillan, Director, Nutrition and Transportation Unit

**DATE:** September 6, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Emergency Feeding of School Children from Areas Devastated by Hurricane Katrina

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This memorandum is to announce the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) policy for the feeding of school children from areas recently devastated by Hurricane Katrina. This reiterates and emphasizes the application of current policy as a result of the current situation.

Households certified for emergency food stamps are automatically eligible for free school meals. Contact your county food stamp office with any questions.

When there are large numbers of homeless families and children because of property loss or damage, school officials may keep a list to document free meal eligibility, in lieu of individual applications (this is current policy for homeless children). This list should be signed and dated by the district's Homeless Liaison, per established procedure.

In cases where a household from a designated disaster area moves in with another household, the displaced individuals are in a temporary living situation and thus may be considered homeless and consequently automatically eligible for free meals. However, the host family would have to provide a revised application (and can include those displaced by the disaster as long as any income provided to the host family is also included on the application) in order for their own children to be eligible for free or reduced price meal benefits.

For those areas not immediately affected by the hurricane, but which have individuals displaced by the disaster, if a free and reduced price meal application cannot be obtained from the household, school officials may complete the application on behalf of the child based on the best available knowledge of the household's economic circumstances. Per normal policy, these families must be notified that they have been approved for meal benefits.

These cases should be treated as Temporary Approval. School officials should review eligibility determinations made under these crisis procedures after 45 days to evaluate the household's circumstances.

Specific questions regarding the application of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act should be directed to your district's Homeless Liaison. Additional information can be obtained by visiting CDE's website at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprevention/pihomeless.htm> or calling 303.866.6861.

Please contact our office if you have any questions at 303.866.6661, or 888-245-6092 outside of the Denver metro area.