



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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CN08-G-010

TO: Nutrition Service Directors

FROM: Herminia J. Vigil, Director, Nutrition and Transportation

DATE: October 15, 2007

SUBJECT: Start Smart Nutrition Program Funds

On May 15, 2007, Governor Ritter signed into law Senate Bill 07-059, the Start Smart Nutrition Program. This legislation will have a very welcome impact on your School Breakfast Program (SBP) operations beginning with the 2007-08 school year. The bill was sponsored by Senator Sandoval, and co-sponsored by Representative Madden, at the request of the Colorado School Nutrition Association.

The legislation effectively eliminates the \$0.30 co-payment for reduced price breakfast, and instead, districts will receive \$0.30 from state funds in its place. Historically, the \$0.30 co-pay has been one of the major barriers for the children of many eligible families to consistently participate in the breakfast program. Shifting the \$0.30 co-payment to the state will have a positive effect, and increase participation of eligible children.

Please note that participating school districts may not charge the student the reduced price of \$0.30.

The distribution methodology and accounting requirements are as follows:

1. Each participating district will receive the funds with the monthly claim for reimbursement. The School Nutrition Program Payment Summary report from the online claim system summarizes and identifies the amount owed to the sponsor by state funds and federal funds.

Note: Report the reduced meals as you have in the past. **Do not combine** the free meal count and reduced meal count and report all meals as free. The meals must be reported by category: paid, reduced price, and free.

2. The payment will be identified as "**SSNP – Start Smart Nutrition Program.**" The funds must be deposited to the Food Service Fund (Fund 51), and reflect the newly established grant code, **3164**, for proper tracking. The statute is very specific in the requirement that these funds are to be used solely to benefit your Child Nutrition Program operations, and not for any other purposes.
3. Furthermore, these funds are "supplement and not supplant," and may not be used to reduce any level of funding provided by the district's General Fund in support of the food service operations established during school year 2000-2001.

Please call this office if you have questions 303.866.6661 or toll-free (in-state) 888.245.6092.