

# *OSPI CNS School Meal Programs Reference Sheet*

## **Provision 2**

Provision 2 is a four-year claiming option that reduces the burden of processing applications, simplifies meal counting and claiming procedures and allows schools with high numbers of participating low-income children to serve meals at no cost to all students. This potentially increases participation in school meal programs and decreases school food service administration costs. This provision has been an option for schools since 1980.

## **Requirements**

- ✓ Base year eligibility determination is collected, and meals are counted and claimed by eligibility type
- ✓ Schools must serve meals to all participating children at no charge for a period of 4 years
- ✓ Schools or districts are required to pay the difference between Federal reimbursement and the cost of providing the meals at no charge, using non-federal sources
- ✓ LEAs must apply and notify OSPI CNS prior to implementation. OSPI CNS must review base year eligibility determination prior to final approval of claiming percentage.

## **How Provision 2 Works**

- ✓ Establish a base year:
  - The first year of Provision 2 is a base year. The base year is conducted to establish Free, Reduced-Price, and Paid meal percentages.
  - Collect Free/Reduced Price applications and direct certification throughout the year.
  - Count and claim meals by eligibility category.
- ✓ Years 2-4:
  - Meal counts are claimed by total meals served each day.
  - Reimbursement during these years is determined by applying the annual average claiming percentages of free, reduced-price, and paid meals calculated from the base year meal count data for breakfast and lunch. The same set of claiming percentages will be used for corresponding monthly counts.
  - At the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> year, the district can request an extension of the Provision 2 program from OSPI for another four years if the socioeconomic status of the community is unchanged.



## Annual Poverty Data Collection

In Washington State, funding for state education programs uses individual student free and reduced-price information. Schools participating in Provision 2 will need to implement an alternate method to collect this data annually. The [Family Income Survey](#) may be used to collect this data.

## Disclosure and Consent to Share Requirements

Consent to Share forms must be provided to all households that are directly certified and those sent the Family Income Survey. Disclosure of a student's eligibility determination and subsequent fee reductions require a consent to share form for all students attending a Provision 2 school.

## Benefits of Provision 2

- ✓ All students receive meals at no charge.
- ✓ All students receive the benefits of nutritious school meals.
- ✓ Decreases paperwork for families as no applications are needed after the base year.
- ✓ Decreases paperwork for schools with no application to process and eliminates the verification process after the base year.
- ✓ Percentages are established on meal participation of the base year not based on entire economic base.

## Provision 2 Comparison to Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

Provision 2	CEP
-No minimum economic profile (free/reduced income level) to participate -Claiming percentages are established in the base year by actual Free, Reduced and Paid meals served -Available to schools that serve lunch only -Can operate and select Provision 2 option for Breakfast only, Lunch only or both meals	-Schools must have 40% of students directly certified for free meals to participate -Claiming percentages established based on Direct Certification only -Participating schools must serve both breakfast and lunch -Both breakfast and lunch meals must be claimed at the established percentage

## Reference

- [USDA Provision 2 Guidance](#)
- [SP 46-2015: Review of Provision 2/3 Base Year](#)

## Acronym Reference

- CNS - Child Nutrition Services
- OSPI - Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
- USDA - United States Department of Agriculture