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# SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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August 11, 2017

( ) Action Required  
(X) Informational

BULLETIN NO. 053-17 CHILD NUTRITION SERVICES

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents  
School District Superintendents  
Assistant Superintendents for Business and/or Business Managers  
School Food Service Supervisors  
Administrators of Child and Adult Care Food Program Institutions  
Administrators of Private Schools

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Waiver of Eligibility for Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program

CONTACTS: Adele Roberts 360-725-6200 [adele.roberts@k12.wa.us](mailto:adele.roberts@k12.wa.us)  
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Agency TTY: 360-664-3631

The Western Regional Office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has extended the automatic eligibility of participants in Washington State's Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) for a one-year period. The waiver not only covers children participating in child care centers that claim meals under the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but also those children participating in child care centers that claim meals under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP).

This approved waiver is effective July 1, 2017, and is effective through June 30, 2018.

## **AUTOMATIC ELIGIBILITY FOR ECEAP PARTICIPANTS**

Institutions that feed and claim children enrolled in ECEAP are not required to collect income applications. Children enrolled in ECEAP are automatically eligible for free meal benefits without further application or eligibility determination. Automatic eligibility does not extend to siblings. Conditions for automatic eligibility are:

1. The child must be enrolled as a participant in ECEAP under the Washington State Early Childhood Education and Assistance Act.
2. The local education agency (LEA) or the child care center must have a list on file from the ECEAP grantee of children enrolled as participants in ECEAP to document their eligibility for free meals. This list should be obtained prior to school starting. Without the grantee list, ECEAP students begin the school year in the paid eligibility status. Even if enrollment changes are anticipated, it is best to obtain an initial list and make additions/changes as they occur. ECEAP children determined to be automatically eligible for free meal benefits should be excluded from verification for the NSLP/SBP as they are considered directly certified.

August 11, 2017

**INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE**

If you have questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Adele Roberts, Child and Adult Care Food Program Supervisor, or Wendy Barkley, School Nutrition Programs Supervisor, at 360-725-6200.

This information is also available on OSPI's [Bulletins](#) web page.

Jamila B. Thomas  
Chief of Staff

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Director, Child Nutrition Services

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