



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

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Alexandria, VA  
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**DATE:** March 2, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Reauthorization 2004: Communications Concerning Verification  
Activities

**TO:** Special Nutrition Programs  
All Regions

State Agencies  
Child Nutrition Programs  
All States

In a memorandum dated December 23, 2005, we described the requirement that communications with households regarding application, certification and verification procedures for free and reduced price school meals be provided in languages that are understandable to parents and guardians. This requirement is found in section 9(b)(8) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. We would also like to remind and stress to local education agencies (LEA) that this requirement includes verification materials and statements concerning the use or disclosure of information, including the use of social security numbers. In addition, to the maximum extent practicable, any direct communication with parents or guardians must be in a language they can understand.

To assist LEAs with providing communications in other languages, we have submitted the prototype application and related materials to a contractor for translation. We requested input from State agencies through our Regional offices, and the following are the languages into which the prototype application and related materials will be translated:

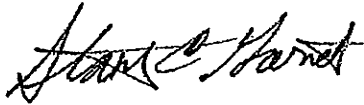
Russian  
Vietnamese  
Chinese (Mandarin)  
Japanese  
Serbo-Croatian  
Arabic  
Korean  
Somali  
Cambodian/Khmer  
French  
Hmong  
Haitian Creole  
Laotian  
Polish  
Portuguese

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Sudanese  
Thai  
Urdu  
Hindi  
Kurdish  
Farsi  
Greek  
Samoan  
Tagalog

Please note that the Spanish translation of the prototype application is already available on our website, and as these additional translations are completed during April, we will be making them available at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/FRP/frp.process.htm>.



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