

OSPI Child Nutrition Programs Reference Sheet

Area Eligibility in Child Nutrition Programs

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funded Child Nutrition Programs use two primary sources of data to determine whether a site is area eligible – school data or census data. Established area eligibility is effective for a period of five consecutive participation years.

Area Eligibility based on School Data

- CACFP [At-Risk Afterschool Meal](#) programs and [NSLP Afterschool Snack](#) programs must use school data to determine area eligibility. The prior year's October Building Data is used.
- School data may be used to establish area eligibility for open sites sponsoring the [SFSP](#) or [SSO](#). Current year October data is used.
- School data must indicate that the proposed meal **site** is located in the attendance area of a public school where at least 50% of the children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.
 - OSPI Child Nutrition Services posts the [Washington Public School Data for Area Eligibility Report](#) annually.
- Schools that draw students from throughout the district may not be used, for example:
 - Alternative high schools or skill centers may not be used to qualify sites as area eligible.
- Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools use their Free Claiming Percentage (Identified Student Percentage (ISP) multiplied by 1.6) to determine area eligibility. CEP schools are included in the [Washington Public School Data for Area Eligibility Report](#) (the data for these schools has been adjusted so that no further calculations are needed.)*
 - CEP schools must use October data from the year prior to CEP implementation in the first year of CEP for area eligibility determinations.
 - If the school applied for CEP in a group or district-wide, the individual school's free claiming percentage is used for area eligibility, not the group's.
- Area Eligibility may be used for 5 years or be updated annually.

Area Eligibility based on Census Data

- Census data may be used to establish area eligibility for open sites sponsoring the [SFSP](#) or [SSO](#).
- Census data may be used to establish Tier 1 eligibility for CACFP Family Day Care Home providers.
- Census data must indicate that the proposed meal site is located in a Census Block Group or Census Tract in which at least 50 percent or more of the children are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.



- The [FNS Area Eligibility Mapper](#) identifies if a specific location qualifies as area eligible, using the address of the potential meal site. The mapper is updated annually in October.

SFSP Special Situations:

- Use of Other Approved Data Sources in SFSP:
 - Other approved sources may demonstrate that 50 percent or more of the children in a defined area are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.
 - Approved sources: Department of Welfare, Zoning Commissions, USDA Rural Development Housing Authorities, Housing and Urban Development Housing Authorities, and Local Housing Authorities.
- SFSP and SSO sites serving children of migrant workers:
 - Area eligibility may be established upon a determination that a meal site predominantly serves the children of migrant workers.
 - Sponsors must submit information obtained from a migrant organization that certifies that the site serves the children of migrant workers.
- SFSP and SSO sites serving American Indian or Alaskan Native Children:
 - Area eligibility may be established for sites that are located in areas in which poor economic conditions exist.
 - Defined as a geographic area where at least 50 percent of the children enrolled at the site are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.
 - Sponsors must provide documentation from a Tribal authority that certifies that the proposed site is located on a Tribal reservation, on trust land, or in an Alaska Native village where at least 50 percent of the children enrolled at the site are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.
- For a complete list of site eligibility options and requirements for SFSP, please review [SFSP Sites and Site Eligibility Reference Sheet](#).

Reference:

- [SP08-2017, CACFP04-2017, SFSP03-2017](#)
- [7 CFR 226.6\(f\)](#)
- [7 CFR 225.6\(c\)](#)

Acronym Reference

- CACFP – Child and Adult Care Food Program
- CFR – Code of Federal Regulations
- CNS – Child Nutrition Services
- FNS – Food and Nutrition Services
- NSLP – National School Lunch Program
- OSPI – Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
- SFSP – Summer Food Service Program
- SP – School Programs
- SSO – Seamless Summer Option
- USDA – United States Department of Agriculture