



July 01, 2019

( ) Action Required  
(X) Informational

BULLETIN NO. 041-19 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: Mary Nagel 360-725-6200 [mary.nagel@k12.wa.us](mailto:mary.nagel@k12.wa.us)  
Wendy Barkley 360-725-6200 [wendy.barkley@k12.wa.us](mailto:wendy.barkley@k12.wa.us)  
Agency TTY: 360-664-3631

**PURPOSE/BACKGROUND**

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 covers children participating in child care centers that claim meals under the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), National School Lunch Program (NSLP), and the School Breakfast Program (SBP).

This approved waiver is effective July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020.

**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 child care center must have a list on file from the ECEAP contractor of children enrolled as participants in ECEAP. This documents eligibility for free meals and should be obtained prior to the start of the program. Without the contractor 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.

### **INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE**

If you have questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Mary Nagel, Community Nutrition Programs Supervisor, or Wendy Barkley, School Nutrition Programs Supervisor, at 360-725-6200.

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

Jamila B. Thomas  
Chief of Staff

TJ Kelly  
Chief Financial Officer

Leanne Eko, RD, SNS  
Director, Child Nutrition Services

CR:sr

The LEA/Sponsor hereby agrees that it will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d to 2000d-6) and all requirements imposed by the regulations of the Department of Agriculture (7 CFR Part 15), The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), Department of Justice (28 CFR Parts 42 & 50), the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. § 1681 et. seq.), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age of Discrimination Act of 1975 (45 CFR Part 91), the Americans with Disabilities Act (28 CFR Part 35, Title II, Subtitle A), and Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) directives or regulations issued pursuant to that act and the regulations to the effect that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability, be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subject to discrimination under any program or activity for which the applicant received federal financial assistance from the department; and HEREBY GIVES ASSURANCE THAT it will immediately take any measures necessary to effectuate this agreement.