



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Sponsors of School Child Nutrition Programs

FROM: John Frassinelli, Chief 
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

DATE: September 8, 2014

SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum #50-14
Local Education Agencies (LEAs) with Schools/Sites Not Participating in the
School Child Nutrition Programs (CNP)

Recently, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) received guidance from the Food and Nutrition Service in Boston regarding LEAs and the use of free and reduced price eligibility information in those schools that do not participate in federally funded CNPs. LEAs that have some schools that participate in the school CNPs; however, also have schools that do **not** participate (e.g., the high school) are not allowed to use the CSDE's sample forms pertaining to the free and reduced price meal application or the United States Department of Agriculture's sample free and reduced price meal application forms to determine if children in the non-participating school(s) are eligible to receive free or reduced price benefits. This is not permitted because the sample application forms are specific to the households applying for benefits in the federally funded CNPs. The LEA would need to develop a separate form (excluding federal and state language pertaining to meal/milk benefits) for the school(s) not participating in the school CNPs.

Additionally, LEAs must not use the direct certification information for the purpose of making a child in a non-participating school directly certified and automatically eligible for free meals. Note however, if a sibling in a participating CNP school is determined to be eligible for free or reduced price benefits based on direct certification or an application meeting the income eligibility guidelines, a sibling in a non-participating CNP school could be provided free and reduced price meals as long as those meals are not claimed for federal reimbursement by the LEA.

Lastly, LEAs are reminded that school's not participating in the school CNPs must continue to adhere to the following Connecticut General Statutes:

- [Sec. 10-221o. Lunch periods. Recess](#)
- [Sec. 10-221p. Boards to make available for purchase nutritious and low-fat foods](#)
- [Sec. 10-221q. Sale of beverages](#)

Questions pertaining to this information may be directed to:

| Consultants for School Nutrition Programs | |
|---|---|
| County | Consultant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fairfield County | Fionnuala Brown fionnuala.brown@ct.gov 860-807-2129 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hartford County (towns/cities beginning with A-R) | Teri Dandeneau teri.dandeneau@ct.gov 860-807-2079 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hartford County (towns/cities beginning with S-W) <input type="checkbox"/> Windham County | Susan Alston susan.alston@ct.gov 860-807-2081 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Litchfield County | Allison Calhoun-White allison.calhoun-white@ct.gov 860-807-2008 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Middlesex County <input type="checkbox"/> Tolland County | Andy Paul andrew.paul@ct.gov 860-807-2048 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Haven County | Jackie Schipke jackie.schipke@ct.gov 860-807-2123 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New London County | Monica Pacheco monica.pacheco@ct.gov 860-807-2073 |

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