



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: National School Lunch, School Breakfast and Special Milk Program Sponsors

FROM: Paul F. Flinter, Chief
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

DATE: May 28, 2008

SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum #17-08

- I. E-Rate Audits and the Sharing of Free and Reduced Eligibility Information
- II. The Special Milk Program

I. E-Rate Audits and the Sharing of Free and Reduced Eligibility Information

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) through the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) administers the E-Rate program. USAC provides discounts to schools to obtain affordable telecommunication and Internet access. The discount rates are based on the percentage of children who are approved for free and reduced price school meals. To support the discount rate given to schools to obtain services, E-Rate auditors are requesting documentation of the discount calculation. Additionally, some E-Rate auditors have asked for a list of eligible students for selected schools along with the applications for those students.

This serves as a reminder that local education agencies (sponsors of the Child Nutrition Programs) currently **cannot release** individual children's eligibility status or their applications to these E-Rate auditors. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is working with the FCC to determine if the requested information is releasable under Section 9(b)(6) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. However, until a decision is made by USDA, this information can not be shared with these auditors.

II. The Special Milk Program

The purpose of the Special Milk Program (SMP) is to provide milk to children that **do not have access** to the Federal child nutrition meal programs. (For more information on the SMP go to <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Milk/Default.htm>).

School districts that have all day kindergarten or all day pre-kindergarten classes may be eligible to participate in the SMP **or** they may be eligible to participate in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and/or National School Lunch Program (NSLP). All day kindergarten (or all day Pre-K) classes may not participate in the SMP **and** another meal program.

The Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education strongly recommends that districts that have all day kindergarten (or all day Pre-K) classes choose to participate in the NSLP and/or SBP to provide nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free meals to children each school day.

Questions pertaining to this memorandum may be directed to:

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