



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

**EDUCATION**

**MEMORANDUM**

To: School Food Authorities, Child Care Providers, Summer Meals Operators

From: Lindsey Palmer, RDN, LD

Lindsey Palmer, RDN, LD  
State Agency Director

Date: April 13, 2017

Re: Area Eligibility Determination for District Programs

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The purpose of this memo is to outline the definition of Area Eligibility with the District of Columbia and the process in which sites can be deemed eligible.

Area Eligibility refers to the use of school data to establish the eligibility of an area so operators can provide free meals to children without the use of house applications; these programs include the Summer Feeding Program, At-Risk Supper Program, and Afterschool Snack Program. For a site or location to be deemed 'area eligible' it must be within attendance area to a school where 50% or more of its students qualify for free and reduced price meals. Area Eligibility can help increase program participation and feed more children without the burden of applications or identification.

Sites that are not considered area eligible based on their own operating data may use another site within their attendance zone, as determined by OSSE and DC Public Schools boundary lines, for eligibility purposes. Data about free and reduced priced meals to determine area eligibility is established once every five years but may be updated annually, at OSSE's discretion, to add new sites or LEAs that are new to the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or become area eligible from one year to the next using Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or free and reduce priced meal data.

Any site wishing to use current Area Eligibility data to determine if their site can participate in the At-Risk Program or SFSP must contact OSSE's Nutrition Programs team with the site name and address.

For more information on Area Eligibility, please see the US Department of Agriculture's recent memo [SP 08-2017, CACFP 04-2017, SFSP 03-2017: Area Eligibility in Child Nutrition Programs](#).