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POLICY UPDATE



06.02.2017 Paid Lunch Equity: School Year 2017-18 Calculations and Revised Tool

USDA released a [memo regarding the Paid Lunch Equity \(PLE\) tool](#), which had some slight changes. School Food Authorities (SFAs) that participate in the NSLP are required to ensure that sufficient funds are provided to the nonprofit school food service account for meals served to students not eligible for free or reduced price meals. The PLE tool can be used to help SFAs make the required calculations and to ensure make sure they are in compliance with the requirements for SY 2017-18. Program operators reported a few errors with the SY 2016-17 PLE tool, so a [corrected version](#) has been made available. The details of the corrections can be found in the memo.

06.07.2017 Memo on Assessing the Child Nutrition State Administrative Expense Allocation Formula

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) sent out a [notice inviting the public to comment](#) on a new information collection regarding the State Administrative Expense (SAE) allocations. The collection is intended to assess the effectiveness of the current SAE allocation formula for child nutrition programs, to identify and examine factors that influence state spending, and develop and test a range of possible alternatives to improve the SAE allocation formula. Written comments must be received by August 6, 2017 and can be submitted through the [Federal eRulemaking Portal](#).

6.22.2017 FY 2017 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants for School Food Authorities

In the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017, \$25 million in equipment assistance grants was awarded to School Food Authorities (SFAs). The USDA recently released [a memo](#) to distribute the funding allocations of that \$25 million, which are laid out in [this attachment](#). The funds are intended to help SFAs purchase equipment that will allow them to serve healthier foods, expand access and improve food safety. The memo goes on to provide guidance on the specific terms and conditions, period of performance, timelines, funding goals, and reporting requirements for these grants. FNS Regional Financial Management Offices are responsible for completing the FNS-529 and the Terms and Conditions document for each State agency, and templates and instructions for completing these documents can be found [here](#).

6.29.2017 Federal Register: APEC III, Improper Payments Study

The [proposed APEC III study](#) will provide FNS with the information needed to reduce improper payments in the school meals programs. The study will survey a nationally representative sample of School Food Authorities (SFAs), a sample of schools within each SFA, and a random sample of students within each school that applied or were directly certified for free and reduced-price meals. The data will be used to develop national estimates of the annual error rates and erroneous payments for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program in school year 2017-18 and to identify strategies for reducing errors. Comments on this record collection can be sent to Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, D.C. 20250-7602. Comments are due by July 26, 2017.

Questions or comments?

Send them to SNA's Government Affairs Coordinator, Lawren Geer, at lgeer@schoolnutrition.org