

New Mexico Provision 2 Fact Sheet

Provision 2

National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program

Overview

Provision 2 requires that schools serve meals to participating students at no charge for a period of four years, thus reducing application burdens to once every 4 years. This not only helps simplify meal counting, it also makes claiming procedures easier with reimbursement based on claiming percentages. Provision 2 can be offered for breakfast, lunch or both school programs.

Base Year

The first year of Provision 2 is known as the base year. After free and reduced price applications are completed, eligibility determinations are made. Schools districts must serve each student's meals at no charge regardless of the eligibility category they fall under: free, reduced price or paid eligibility. At the point of service, meals must be counted and claimed under one of the three eligibility categories. The totals determine monthly or annual claiming percentages to be used in the non-base years.

Non-Base Years

Years 2, 3 and 4 are referred to as non-base years. During non-base years, Provision 2 schools continue to offer meals at no charge to all children and count only the total number of meals served. School officials do not distribute applications, conduct direct certification or make eligibility determinations during non-base years.

Meal Counting

Provision 2 schools count the total number of reimbursable meals at the point of service every day. During non-base years, meal counts are claimed using the base year's percentages of free, reduced price and paid students.

General Requirements

- Obtains PED approval to operate the Provision 2 breakfast and/or lunch program in some or all schools.
- Agree to serve free meals to all children in the participating schools.
- Provide public notification of the availability of free school meals to all affected households.
- Update current policy statement to reflect participation in Provision 2.
- During the base year, establish claiming percentages by category based on eligibility determination.
- Retain all base year records including applications, direct certification, categorically eligible student information, meal counts, verification and claiming percentages.
- Complete direct certification for all students once per year in October.
- Using funds from non-federal sources, agree to pay the difference between federal reimbursement and the cost of meals served at no charge to all participating children.

End of Provision Cycle

At the end of each four-year cycle, schools on Provision 2 can choose to apply for an extension, revert back to standard meal counting and claiming procedures, or apply to operate a new Provision 2 base year. For all three options, the district must inform the state agency of the planned activity at the end of the Provision 2 cycle. In addition, extensions and new base years require the approval of the state agency prior to implementing any changes or new activities. The state agency may approve four-year extensions if the income level of the school's population, as adjusted for inflation, has remained stable, declined or had only negligible improvement since the base year.

Where can I learn more?

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/prov-1-2-3/provision1_2_3.htm

NEW MEXICO STUDENT NUTRITION BUREAU

<http://ped.state.nm.us/nutrition/index.html>

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