Determining Eligibility of Preprimary Classes Such as Head Start for National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or Child and Adult Care Food Programs (CACFP)

This will clarify an issue regarding the State agency's (SA's) determination whether Head Start centers or any other "schools" or "classes" for preprimary-age children are eligible for either NSLP or CACFP.

NSLP Regulations Part 210.2 define a school, in part, as "An educational unit of high school grade or under, recognized as part of the education system in the State . . . [or] any public or nonprofit private classes of preprimary grade when they are conducted in the aforementioned schools . . . ."

CACFP Regulations Part 226.2 provide for meal service to child care centers. They are defined therein as being ". . . . any public or private nonprofit organization, or proprietary Title XX center, . . . . licensed or approved to provide nonresidential child care services to enrolled children, primarily of preschool age, including but not limited to day care centers, settlement houses, neighborhood centers, Head Start centers and organizations providing day care services for handicapped children . . . ."

At the discretion of the SA, public or nonprofit private classes of preprimary grade, including Head Start Programs, which meet both the NSLP "school" definition and the CACFP "child care center" definition summarized above, may be allowed to choose to participate in either the NSLP or the CACFP. At the further discretion of the SA, such programs could participate in both the NSLP and the CACFP through two separate agreements, as long as the SA ensures that no meals are claimed for both NSLP and CACFP reimbursement. For instance, a site could choose to have an agreement under NSLP for breakfast and lunch, and an agreement under CACFP for after-school hours. However, a Head Start Center that would not be eligible for the NSLP would not have these options, and should be directed to the CACFP.

While the Food and Nutrition Service allows the flexibility of these local options, SAs may impose more restrictive policies which are consistent with our Agency's regulations and policies.

Ann C. Hector
ANN C. HECTOR
Regional Director
Special Nutrition Programs
May 13, 1993

Bill B. Campbell
USD #368
Head Start Program
P.O. Box 200
Ottawa, KS 66067

Dear Bill:

This letter is to inform you of the policy and procedures for claiming meals served to Head Start enrollees.

Effective June 1, all meals claimed for children enrolled in Head Start must be claimed through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Breakfast and lunch may no longer be claimed through the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, or the Summer Food Service Program.

Follow the procedures listed below that apply to your district.

1. If your district has a current CACFP agreement for snacks and/or breakfast and plans to continue the Head Start through the summer months, revise the CACFP Schedule A as follows and mail to LEA Finance no later than June 5.

   (a) Code "Y" each month you plan to submit a claim
   (b) Code "Y" each meal you plan to claim
   (c) Inactivate sites on the Schedule A which will not be open through the summer.
   (d) If you add new sites for summer, update enrollment and income category information for ALL active sites listed.
   (e) Complete site name, address, type of program, capacity, and the meals to be claimed for all new sites.

2. If your district has a current CACFP agreement for snacks and/or breakfast but does not plan to operate a summer Head Start, revise the CACFP Schedule A as follows and mail to LEA Finance no later than June 5.

   (a) Code "Y" each meal you plan to claim.
3. If your district does not have a current CACFP agreement for the Head Start program and you wish to claim reimbursement for meals served to Head Start participants, request a CACFP agreement packet from Nutrition Services for the 1993-94 school year. This agreement will be effective September 1, 1993 if approved by August 23.


If you have questions concerning the procedures please feel free to call Nutrition Services at 913-296-2276.

Sincerely,

Rita A. Hamman, Team Leader
Nutrition Services