Minnesota Department of Education

Participation by School Readiness Classes in School Nutrition Programs

Meals served to children in certain preschool classes including early childhood classes offered through School Readiness Programs may be eligible for claiming under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or the School Breakfast Program (SBP). Such classes may participate in School Nutrition Programs if:

(1) the class is an educational unit recognized as part of the educational system in the state and is operating under public or private nonprofit ownership or

(2) the class is conducted and co-located in a school.

If a School Readiness Program meets one of the above conditions, the program coordinator is encouraged to contact the School Food Service Manager or Director in the school district to review the circumstances of the program and the meal service(s) to which the class will have access.

The School Readiness Program does not need to have a separate agreement with the State Agency in order to claim reimbursement for the nutrition programs. The School Food Authority within the school district providing the meal will claim the reimbursement for the school nutrition program.

School Readiness classes may be eligible for the Federal Special Milk Program (SMP) if the children do not have access to school meals under the NSLP or the SBP. This would be true if the School Readiness program meets at a time when the school breakfast or school lunch is not available. Program applications and claims under the SMP will be handled through the school food service.

Snacks served to children who participate in after school programs (those conducted after the School Readiness program is completed for the day) may also be eligible for reimbursement. After school snacks may be claimed under the NSLP when the School Food Authority operates the lunch component and the school district operates or sponsors the after school program.

For questions regarding meal or milk program participation for School Readiness classes, School Food Authorities, contact Minnesota Food and Nutrition Services at 651.582.8526 (local), 1.800. 366.8922 (toll free MN only), or at mde.fns@state.mn.us

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