



State of Arizona
Department of Education

Tom Horne
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

CN #22-10
SFSP CN #02-10
SP# 05-2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sponsors of the National School Lunch Program & School Breakfast Program

FROM: Mary Szafranski, Deputy Associate Superintendent
Arizona Department of Education, Health and Nutrition Unit

Lynn Ladd, Director
Arizona Department of Education, School Health and Education Programs

DATE: December 3, 2009

SUBJECT: Pandemic Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (P-SNAP) Benefits for
Children Certified as Eligible to Receive Free & Reduced Price School Lunch
During School Closures

Original Signed

This memorandum contains information about new legislative authority to provide Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly the Food Stamp Program) benefits to children certified for free or reduced price school lunches whose schools are closed for at least 5 consecutive days during a pandemic emergency designation, referred to as P-SNAP.

Section 746 of Public Law 111-80, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (signed October 21, 2009) allows State SNAP agencies to submit plans to provide SNAP benefits to households including children certified as eligible to receive free or reduced price school lunches who are enrolled in a school or school district that will be or has been closed for at least 5 consecutive days due to a pandemic emergency.

Please note that delivery of P-SNAP benefits is a State SNAP agency option and is not required. State SNAP agencies that wish to provide P-SNAP benefits may provide such benefits to all households including children eligible to receive free or reduced price school lunch or only to those children whose families are already enrolled in SNAP. State SNAP agencies may only

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provide P-SNAP benefits from October 1, 2009 through September 3, 2010, and only during a period in which the area is designated as under a pandemic emergency.

If the Arizona SNAP agency exercises this authority after approval by the Secretary of Agriculture, cooperation among the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES), Arizona Department of Education (ADE), local SNAP agencies, and local educational agencies (LEAs) will be required. In order to provide P-SNAP benefits to children eligible to receive free and reduced price school lunches, DES or local SNAP agencies will need to obtain basic information on eligible children (e.g., name of head of household, number of eligible children, and address of household) from the LEA. Section 746(e) of the Appropriations Act authorizes ADE and LEAs administering the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) to release to information about eligible children that attend affected schools to appropriate SNAP officials. LEAs must obtain a completed Confidentiality Agreement from SNAP officials; a template of this agreement can be found at: www.ade.az.gov/health-safety/cnp/nslp/GuidanceManual/FRManual/appendices.asp.

Please note that children may be eligible for P-SNAP benefits and at the same time be eligible for meals provided through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) H1N1 Waiver. For information regarding the SFSP H1N1 Waiver, reference CN 08-10, SFSP 04-09 “School Closures during a H1N1 Outbreak” and CN 20-10, SFSP 07-09 “Additional Q&A for School Closures Due to H1N1 Outbreaks.”

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this memo, please contact your assigned School Health and Nutrition Program Specialist at (602) 542-8700.

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