



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NOTE

No. 03-09

Bureau of School Business Services
FOOD AND NUTRITION MANAGEMENT

Contact:
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Charlie Crist,
Commissioner

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DATE: December 20, 2002

TO: Sponsors of the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, and Special Milk Program

FROM: Milton T. Tankersley, Administrator
Food and Nutrition Management

SUBJECT: Policies on the Collection of Households' Free and Reduced Price Meal Eligibility Information

The USDA has recently become aware of concerns about requirements in the "No Child Left Behind Act" to annually collect socioeconomic data by child. They feel that the Provisions in this Act may have led to the inappropriate use of free and reduced price meal applications. However, implementation of these provisions must be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the free and reduced price application-related requirements in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), which is governed by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act.

We have issued two technical assistance notes, which set forth policies governing the free and reduced price application process. On November 30, 2001, we issued technical assistance note **02-20** entitled "Requirements for the Submission of Free and Reduced Price Meal Applications." On June 19, 2002, we issued technical assistance note **02-46** entitled "The Free and Reduced Price Meal Application and Direct Certification during the Operation of Provision II." Please be aware that these technical assistance notes are still in effect and govern the pertinent aspects of the free and reduced price application process under the NSLP.

If you have questions, the technical assistance notes listed above may be viewed at <http://fnm.doe.state.fl.us>. Please contact Irene Wimbush at 1-800-504-6609, or email irene.wimbush@fldoe.org.

MTT/IW/set

cc: David Morris
FNM Staff