



Department of Education
John L. Winn, Commissioner

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NOTE

No. 2006-15

School Business Services Food and Nutrition Management

Contact: Irene Wimbush

**Policy Memorandum 245.03-23: United States Armed Forces (850) 245-9334
Family Supplemental Subsistence Allowance – Excluded from SC 205-9334
Income Consideration**

DATE: January 31, 2006

TO: Sponsors of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs

FROM: Diane Santoro, Administrator
Food and Nutrition Management

SUBJECT: Policy Memorandum 245.03-23: United States Armed Forces Family Supplemental Subsistence Allowance – Excluded from Income Consideration

This document supports the mission of Florida's K-20 education system to increase the proficiency of all students within one seamless, efficient system. Through this and other modes of assistance, the office of Food and Nutrition Management (FNM) supports the State Board of Education's goal to deliver quality, efficient services (Section 1008.31(3), Florida Statutes).

The United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, has issued the following guidance on the exclusion of the United States Armed Forces, Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA). The guidance states, "Since May 2001, the Department of Defense has paid certain members of the Armed Forces and their families a Family Supplemental Subsistence Allowance (FSSA). The FSSA is designed to bring a household's income up to 130% of the Federal poverty line and decrease the reliance on Food Stamps for affected members and their families. The amount of the FSSA, based on household size and income, may not exceed \$500 per month. Previously, for purposes of Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) eligibility determination, the FSSA payments were counted as earned income for households (see Q and A2 on page 37 of the August 2001, *Eligibility Guidance for School Meals Manual*). However, in Section 602 of the *Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act* for Fiscal Year 2005, Public Law 108-375, Congress specified that in the event that counting the FSSA as income would put a family over the CNP income limits, the family must be considered eligible to receive CNP benefits. Public Law 108-375 amends a standing provision that is not tied specifically to the appropriations process; therefore, this amendment is effective until the provision expires at the end of Fiscal Year 2006."

DIANE SANTORO, ADMINISTRATOR
FOOD AND NUTRITION MANAGEMENT

The guidance concludes by stating, “Therefore, in accordance with Public Law 108-375, any FSSA that a household receives must not be treated as income in determining eligibility for free and reduced price meals under any of the CNPs. This memorandum supersedes the policy for FSSA in the eligibility guidance for applications taken in Fiscal Years 2005 and 2006.”

If you have questions, please contact Irene Wimbush at (800) 504-6609 or irene.wimbush@fldoe.org.

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