

ACTION BY: Regional Directors
Special Nutrition Programs

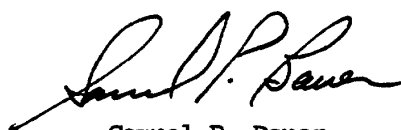
SOURCE CITATION: Section 245.6a(b)(3)

Wage Matching as a Method of Income Verification for National
School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs

This instruction encourages State agencies and local school food authorities to employ wage matching when verifying eligibility for free and reduced price meals in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. The Office of the Inspector General has determined that wage matching is an effective method of verification. This determination, in concert with the provisions of the Deficit Reduction Act of 1984, supports wage matching as a verification technique for school programs in situations where a cost effective mechanism can be developed.

Wage matching as a form of verification has been mandated for the Food Stamp Program since 1983. The Deficit Reduction Act requires State welfare agencies to further enhance their wage match systems and to coordinate efforts to share information between assistance programs such as the Food Stamp Program, the Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program (AFDC) and the Medicaid Program. Although the Act does not require wage matching for the Child Nutrition Programs, the system developed within each State offers a readily available data base to implement wage matching in the lunch and breakfast programs.

State agencies which administer school programs are encouraged to contact the appropriate welfare agency within the State to develop an arrangement whereby verification of eligibility for free and reduced price meals might be conducted through the wage matching system developed for food stamp and welfare purposes.



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