Reimbursement for Meals and Milk Served on Weekends

Congress initially established the National School Lunch, Commodity School, School Breakfast, and Special Milk Programs with the intent of providing nutritious meals or milk to children in traditional schools which normally operate Monday through Friday. This was later expanded to include residential child care institutions and residential schools.

Traditional schools which operate Monday through Friday receive Federal reimbursement for meals or milk served during the periods set aside for meal and milk service during the regular school week. Meals and milk served by the school food authority on the weekend may be reimbursable if the activity is an integral part of the curriculum or an actual extension of the local educational program, and not simply a school-affiliated extracurricular event or activity, such as football, band and choral activity. The decision as to whether an activity is an integral part of or extension of the curriculum is to be made by those who determine curriculum in the State education agency, in conjunction with a review of the actual situation with the local school food authority.

Boarding schools that serve meals or milk on weekends may be reimbursed only if the weekend is an extension of the weekday educational program, as defined by the State education agency. However, residential child care institutions may be reimbursed for meals served on weekends.

In all cases, care must be taken to ensure that accurate records are maintained, including meal or milk counts for the free, reduced price and paid categories, as appropriate.

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