

FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM FACT SHEET

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) is a federally assisted program that provides fresh fruits and vegetables to students in participating schools during the school day.

I. PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

To improve children's overall diet and create healthier eating habits to impact their present and future health. The FFVP will help schools create healthier school environments by providing healthier food choices; expanding the variety of fruits and vegetables children experience; and increasing children's fruit and vegetable consumption.

II. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Schools are selected to participate based on an application process that is administered by the State agency.
- The FFVP is targeted to elementary schools with the highest free and reduced price enrollment.

III. PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

- Annually, the State agency will post the application for the FFVP program via the Messages & Memos in SNEARS.
- Elementary schools selected will receive between \$50.00-\$75.00 per student for the school year.
- The State agency decides the per-student funding amount based on total funds allocated to the State and the enrollment of applicant schools.
- Schools are encouraged to develop partnerships to help implement the program, such as with local universities, extension services and local grocers.
- Schools are encouraged to purchase local New Jersey produce to the maximum extent possible.
- USDA strongly encourages schools, whenever possible, to offer the FFVP no less than 2 days a week, throughout the entire school year.
- Serving of the fresh fruits and vegetables may only take place during the academic school day and not during the breakfast or lunch periods or during an after school program.

- Only fresh fruits and vegetables can be served. The following are not allowed; dried fruit, fruit smoothies, trail mix cooked or canned fruit or vegetables, dips for fruit. Low fat dips may be served with vegetables sparingly. Cooking fruits or vegetables cannot be done more than once a week.

IV. REIMBURSEMENT

- Schools participating in the FFVP must submit monthly claims for Reimbursement by the 10th of the month following the month's claim via SNEARS.
- It is required to indicate the unit packaging of the fruit/vegetables: either the weight of the case or box, and/or the number of pieces within the case must be included.
- Claims should include all costs expended during the month of the claim.
- Schools are reimbursed for the cost of the fresh fruits and vegetable and limited non-food costs.
- Reimbursement funds will be sent electronically to the school districts or administrative offices where the funds are normally received for the National School Lunch Program. The funds will be designated with a notation of "Fruit & Vegetable Program".

V. RECORDKEEPING

- A reimbursement voucher is electronically filed monthly in the SNEARS system with the Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs, New Jersey State Department of Agriculture.
- The required statistical and financial records supporting all reimbursement vouchers must be kept on file for a period of three years following the fiscal year to which they pertain except that, if audit findings have not been resolved, the records shall be retained beyond the three year period as long as required for the resolution of issues raised by the audit.
- All records must be available at any time for review and/or audit by the Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs, New Jersey State Department of Agriculture and the USDA.