



State of New Jersey

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To: School Business Administrators
Food Service Directors

From: Janet Hawk, Coordinator
School Nutrition Programs

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Hawk".

Date: April 25, 2011

Subject: Seamless Summer Option

Feeding children in the summer is an important option for all schools to consider, as we know that hunger does not take a vacation. Schools participating in the National School Lunch Program have federally funded programs available to provide meals to children in the summer.

The Seamless Summer Option (SSO) is one of the programs available to provide meals to children during the summer. The SSO combines aspects of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). The purpose is to feed children in low-income areas when school is not in session. Eligibility to participate in the SSO is determined by geographic area where at least 50% of children are eligible for free or reduced price meals. In the SSO all meals are served at no cost to the children and all meals are reimbursed at the **federal rate of reimbursement for a free meal**.

For schools only open for academic summer school, meals provided to children must be claimed and reimbursed under the SBP and NSLP and meals served to students are counted based on free, reduced price and paid eligibility. This program is not limited to schools with 50% or more free or reduced price eligibility. If the school site provides meals only to school students enrolled in academic summer school, it is not eligible to participate in the SSO. However, if an academic summer school program opens up the meal service to the community, and the school meets the 50% eligibility criteria, it may enroll in the SSO and provide all meals at no cost to the students.

For Local Education Agencies (LEAs) that may be interested in sponsoring or learning more about the SSO, information is available in the SNEARS system under *Resources*.

To apply to participate in the SSO you must complete the application process in SNEARS. Application/agreement information and site detail information **must be certified** no later than June 10, 2011. Instructions for completing the SSO application in SNEARS are available under *Resources*. If you have questions, please contact Emily Lomerson at 609-984-0692 or via email to emily.lomerson@ag.state.nj.us.