



**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
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HANNA SKANDERA
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

SUSANA MARTINEZ
GOVERNOR

March 17, 2011

MEMORANDUM (SNB 2011-2012)

To: Superintendents and Food Service Directors of Public, Charter, Private, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCI) School Food Authorities

Subject: Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Application for SY2011-2012

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (the Farm Bill), which amended the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act by adding Section 19, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. The purpose of the FFVP is to provide all children in a participating elementary school with a variety of *free* fresh fruit and vegetable snacks throughout the school day as a supplement to (and not part of) the school breakfast and school lunch programs, and to teach students about good nutrition.

Section 19 of the National School Lunch Act requires that schools with the highest free and reduced price enrollment be given priority for participation in the FFVP. New Mexico's application review will be based on the percentage of students certified as eligible for free and reduced price benefits. This key selection criterion will ensure that the FFVP benefits low-income children who generally have fewer opportunities to consume fresh fruits and vegetables on a regular basis. Multiple schools from a district may apply although not all are guaranteed to be chosen and each school is required to submit an application.

Based on USDA regulations, schools must begin the program at the beginning of the new school year. Schools are encouraged to work with their school food service administrator to manage this program. The project should be structured so that maximum benefits go to children. The majority of funds should be used for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables. Operating funds may be used for expenses such as value added purchases and the salary and benefits for employees performing tasks related to the preparation and distribution of fruits and vegetables. Ten percent of the total grant award may be used for administrative expenses. All expenses will be monitored by the state agency monthly prior to reimbursement.

Schools will be selected by the State agency, based on guidance and oversight by USDA. Section 19(d) of the National School Lunch Act states the selection criteria for schools to participate in this program:

- ✓ Schools must be elementary schools, or have the ability to separate out elementary students in a K-12 program.
- ✓ School must operate the National school lunch program
- ✓ Schools must represent the highest percentage of students certified for free and reduced price benefits.
- ✓ To the maximum extent possible, highest priority will be given to schools with the highest percentage of low-income students.
- ✓ Schools must complete an annual FFVP application.

The FFVP application is now available at our website at: <http://www.ped.state.nm.us/nutrition/index.html>. Please fill out the application electronically, print a copy and have it signed by the appropriate staff members. Once signed, submit the original application to:

**Student Nutrition Bureau
120 S. Federal Pl. Rm. 105
Santa Fe, NM 87501
Attn: FFVP**

Applications are due Friday, April 8, 2011. Applications postmarked after April 8, 2011, WILL NOT be considered.

Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Carolann Gutierrez at (505) 827-1814 or carolann.gutierrez@state.nm.us or Sri Seshadri at (505) 827-1448 or srilakshmi.seshadri@state.nm.us of the Student Nutrition Bureau at (505) 827-1821.