

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES



744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

September 20, 1984

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 1-89-84

TO: ALL-COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: VERIFICATION OF FOOD STAMP PARTICIPATION FOR  
FREE SCHOOL MEALS

We have been notified by Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the requirement for local agencies to confirm for school officials an individual household's participation in the Food Stamp Program in order to be eligible for free school meals.

Our regulations permit the disclosure of information for the purpose of granting assistance to other federal or federally aided programs. The attached letter from FNS provides information regarding local agencies' responsibility for disclosure to school officials.

If you have any questions, you may call the Food Stamp Policy Implementation Bureau at (916) 445-6907.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert A. Horel".

ROBERT A. HOREL  
Deputy Director

Attachment

cc: CWDA



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

Western  
Region

550 Kearny Street  
San Francisco, CA 94108

WFN-100:FS-6-CA

~~AUG 10 1984~~

MS LINDA S MCMAHON DIRECTOR  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
744 P STREET MAIL STOP 17-11  
SACRAMENTO CA 95814

Dear Ms. McMahon:

Again this year we are requesting your cooperation in making food stamp certification offices aware that they are authorized to confirm individual households' participation in the Food Stamp Program for school officials who request such information.

Starting with this school year, households that provide a food stamp case number on the school meal application will be classified as eligible for free school meals. However, school officials are required to verify the receipt of food stamps for one-half of 1 percent (0.5 percent) of these households. Some school districts reported that last year their local food stamp offices were not aware that they could confirm individual households' participation in the Food Stamp Program for school officials and they refused to do so. The Food Stamp Application Privacy Act statement has been amended to allow this information to be provided to officials verifying school meal eligibility in accordance with Section 169 of Public Law 97-253.

We ask that your local offices be informed that they are authorized to release information to school districts verifying households' food stamp eligibility status. This information is used expressly for the verification of eligibility for school meals and prompt release will facilitate the process for recipients and school officials. The required sample size for the food stamp population is so limited that it should impose a minimal burden upon the food stamp staff. In most school districts we envision the school sending a list of less than five names and food stamp case numbers to the certification office for confirmation of eligibility.

Thank you for your cooperation. Please contact the Regional Family Nutrition Program staff at (415) 556-8277 if questions arise.

Sincerely,

R. HICKS ELMORE  
Regional Administrator  
Western Region