



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

DATE: July 25, 2006

MEMO CODE: SP 27-2006

SUBJECT: Verification Sample Size

TO: Special Nutrition Programs
All Regions

Section 9(b)(3) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (NSLA) was amended by the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, Public Law 108-265, to specify verification sample sizes for local educational agencies (LEAs). As stated in section 9(b)(3)(D)(iii) of the NSLA, the standard sample size is the lesser of three percent (3%) or 3,000 of the approved applications on file as of October 1. It is important to note that the NSLA, as revised in 2004, now establishes an exact sample size for routine annual verification activities. LEAs must verify at least as many applications as calculated by the sample formula but may do no more.

While the verification sample cannot exceed the statutory limits, LEAs still have an obligation to verify questionable applications (for cause). For cause may include but is not limited to situations where school officials have knowledge of household circumstances that would cause them to verify the information on the application. It is important to note that this restriction on sample size does not apply to a State's ability to conduct application verification activities connected to its general oversight responsibilities.

Please forward this memorandum to your State agencies as soon as possible, and request that they share with their LEAs immediately to insure implementation for school years 06/07. The memorandum will be posted on the web site one week from today.

Original Signed

STANLEY C. GARNETT
Director
Child Nutrition Division

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