



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park
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Alexandria, VA
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DATE: September 7, 2005

SUBJECT: School Meals Programs: Verification Procedures and Hurricane Katrina

TO: Special Nutrition Programs
All Regions

State Agencies
Child Nutrition Programs

We have been asked how areas affected by Hurricane Katrina should conduct verification. The following are the guidelines for School Year 2005-2006 concerning verification of free and reduced price applications:

- Local educational agencies that are in jurisdictions which are federally declared disaster areas are not required to do any verification;
- For those local educational agencies that have experienced an influx of students from areas affected by Hurricane Katrina, State agencies have the authority to extend the completion deadline to later in the school year or to waive it if warranted;
- Families who have been displaced due to Hurricane Katrina are not subject to verification because they are considered homeless;
- Further guidance will be coming on completion of the FNS-742, the School Food Authority Verification Summary Report.

Local educational agencies affected by Hurricane Katrina may submit August and September claims by December 31, 2005, without a request for waiver of the 60-day deadline due.

If there are any questions concerning this policy, State agencies should contact their Regional office.

Original Signed

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