

Severe Need Assistance for the School Breakfast Program:  
Reauthorization 2004 Implementation Memo

Purpose:

The following provides the criteria for determining schools eligibility for severe need assistance under the School Breakfast Program.

Scope:

Sponsors of the School Breakfast Program (SBP)

Description:

Section 201 of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (the Act) amended Section 5 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966. Effective July 1, 2004, schools are no longer required to document that the normal per meal reimbursement is insufficient to cover the costs of the SBP. Beginning with School Year 2004-2005, schools no longer have to maintain cost records to receive the severe need reimbursement rate for the SBP.

The Act retained the provision that requires that schools must have served 40 percent or more of their lunches to free or reduced-price students in the second preceding year in order to receive severe need assistance. In addition, the law now permits USDA to determine how the 40 percent test is met for schools that did not serve lunches in the second preceding year. Additional guidance will be issued on this provision.