

Verification of Income Eligibility  
Reauthorization 2004 Implementation

**PURPOSE:** To provide an update to school food authorities (SFAs) and local education agencies (LEAs) as to the documentation households may submit to meet the verification of income requirement.

**SCOPE:** Participants in the School Breakfast Program and the National School Lunch Program

**DESCRIPTION:** Documentation of Income

The Reauthorization of 2004 allows for full school year eligibility based on the initial determination made of the Application for Free or Reduced-price Meals. As a result, the documentation households may submit as part of the verification process has been updated. Effective July 1, 2004, households must be allowed to provide documentation of income for any point in time between the month prior to application and the time the household is required to provide income documentation.

The Eligibility Guidance for Schools Meals Manual, August 2001, edition states that households selected for verification must document their income information for the most recent month available. USDA will update the manual to reflect the change.

**SOURCE:** USDA, Food and Nutrition Policy Memorandum #04-30, Dated, September 1, 2004