

Elimination of Tickets in the School Nutrition Programs

Purpose:

This instruction sets forth the policy to direct sponsors (schools, RCCLs, and camps) to phase out the use of tickets at the point of service to prevent overt identification of student's status. In many schools, only the free and reduced students are using raffle style tickets while paid students use cash. This policy does not apply to ID cards or weekly punch cards that are required by all students.

Scope:

Sponsors (schools, RCCL, and camps) participating in the School Nutrition Programs.

Description:

The USDA's rules and regulations specify that student's status of paid, free, and reduced should not be easily identifiable at the point of service. Tickets that are purchased and used by sponsors at the point of service have been a consistent source of overt identification of a student's status. To help protect student's status and rights, sponsors currently using tickets at the point of service will need to find a new system to record student meal purchases. Identified below are several ways in which sponsors can document meals at the point of service without using tickets.

- Paper checklist with student's names ((Do not use any easily identifiable codes such as P, R, F)
- Computer with a word document or excel spreadsheet with student's names
- Computerized Point of Sale system

Listed below is the timeline the Indiana Department of Education will give schools in order to replace their ticket system.

- School Year 2012-2013 – Sponsors can continue to use their ticket system but should be looking at alternative ways
- School Year 2013-2014 – Sponsors should decide on a new system to use to track students at the point of service and begin phasing out tickets.
- School Year 2014-2015 – Sponsors should no longer be using a ticket system and should have a different system in place for tracking students at the point of service

SOURCE: INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY NUTRITION DIVISION