TO: School Nutrition Program Software Providers

FROM: Child Nutrition Programs

DATE: December 20, 2019

SUBJECT: School Nutrition Program Software Changes in Oregon for School Year 2020-21

Thank you for your organization’s years of service supporting School Nutrition Program operations in Oregon through computer software applications.

During the 2019 legislative session, the state of Oregon passed HB 3427 – referred to as Student Success Act. This bill created a dedicated funding source for public education activities, including supplemental funding for federal school nutrition programs. Included in the bill were four initiatives to increase access and participation in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. The four initiatives are:

1. Incentivizing use of the Community Eligibility Provision
2. Supplementing paid meals provided to students up to 300% of the federal poverty level
3. Mandating breakfast service after the start of the school day in schools with 70% free and reduced price eligibility
4. Equipment grants for schools required to implement the breakfast mandate (up to $5,000 per school

We refer to these initiatives as “Fueling Students for Success”.

These initiatives apply to all Oregon School Districts, Education Service Districts and Charter Schools. The initiatives will be implemented July 1, 2020 for the 2020-21 school year. The intent of this communication is to provide information about the perceived impacts from the change in Oregon law on the software and hardware used by Oregon School Nutrition Programs for breakfast and lunch counting and claiming or other product modules.

Breakfast Mandate and Equipment Grant

The Breakfast mandate and equipment grant may generate additional opportunities for flexible point of service hardware and software. Each are allowable expenses for the grant.

Community Eligibility Provision Incentive

State funding will supplement program reimbursements for paid meals up to the free claiming rate of 90% (reimbursement goal). The supplement may not exceed the established free reimbursement rate less federal, state and local amounts already reimbursed or paid.

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The impact of the Community Eligibility Provision Incentive will be in the calculation and reporting of claim payments. The federal requirements for eligibility and payment calculations remain the same. For the state supplements, software functionality should allow the user to specify the reimbursement goal and rates for the school year based upon district submitted and state agency approved information. The reimbursement goal will be the same for School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program. See attached documents for details.

Expanded Income Group Program

The Expanded Income Group Program provides a state funding supplement for paid meals served at no charge to students with families in the annual income range greater than 185%, not exceeding 300% of the federal poverty level. We are referring to this initiative as “Oregon (OR) Paid”. There are two implementation methods:

* confidential family income application
* formula based on United States Census Bureau data.

A different implementation method may be used for breakfast and lunch at a school. The method used is at the discretion of the school district. The impact of the Expanded Income Group Program will be eligibility, meal counting and claiming, reimbursement calculation and reporting claim payments. See attached documents for details.

Standard Federal Program

The federal school nutrition programs, without state funding, continue in Oregon for private, non-profit organizations. Education organizations that are eligible for the state initiatives may also elect to operate under the federal funding only, declining state funding. Functionality to support the federal program must continue to be an option.

Data Requirements

School districts should be able to enter approved annual Oregon paid rates for lunch, severe need breakfast regular breakfast and reimbursement goal. Only one rate for lunch is needed, because the additional $.02 is applied in the paid rate, which these meals would have already received. The preliminary reimbursement goal and rates will be available to users no later than February 1 each year for application in the subsequent school year. The final goal and rates will be established after the United States Department of Agriculture announces the reimbursement rates for the coming school year, no later than August 15. Functionality changes to the eligibility certification, meal counting and claiming, and reimbursement calculations are highly recommended to meet the needs of Oregon school districts and programs

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Development Support

*Informational Webinar*

Wednesday, January 8, 11:00 AM to Noon. Please [register](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/childnutrition/SNP/Pages/SNPTraining.aspx) to receive link information.

This webinar will provide an overview of the Fueling Students for Success initiatives in the Student Success Act and the impact on software used by operators in the School Nutrition Programs. The changes needed for eligibility certification, meal counting and claiming and reimbursement will be shared.

*Organizational Support*

Due to the proprietary nature of your business, you may contact me, Heidi Dupuis, to answer specific questions. The contact may be through conference call, video chat, email or face-to-face meeting. Including Oregon school districts who use your application in the discussion is welcome and encouraged.

Sincerely,

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Heidi Dupuis, RDN

Operation Policy Analyst 3

Child Nutrition Programs

Office of Child Nutrition, Research, Accountability, Fingerprinting and Transportation

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[SSA in SNP: Fueling Students For Success (FSx2)](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/childnutrition/SNP/Pages/Student-Success-.aspx)

Enclosure: Software Requirements

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