



BRIGHT FROM THE START
Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
10 Park Place, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 656-5957

Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR
COMMISSIONER

Holly A. Robinson, Ed.D.

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 14, 2008

To: All Institutions Participating in the CACFP Program

From: Jackie Romain, Director, Nutrition Services

RE: Automatic Eligibility for Early Head Start Participants

This memorandum serves as an addendum to the CACFP Policy Memo, "Automatic Eligibility for Free Meal Benefits Extended to All Children Enrolled in Head Start," issued on July 1, 2008. Free meal benefits to all Head Start participants includes participants in Early Head Start.

Early Head Start is a federally-funded child development program that provides services to low-income infants, toddlers, and pregnant women. It has the same eligibility criteria as Head Start. Therefore, the amendments to the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act that make any child enrolled in Head Start automatically eligible for free meals also apply to participants in Early Head Start.

Participants in Early Head Start may receive free meal benefits without further application or eligibility determination. CACFP's Income Eligibility Statements (IES) are no longer required to determine eligibility of Head Start children. Acceptable documentation for participants includes: (1) an approved Early Head Start application; (2) a statement of Early Head Start enrollment; or (3) a list of participants from an Early Head Start official. This process also applies to Head Start children.

Although the IES is no longer required, institutions may continue to use the form as an enrollment tool to document Head Start children in addition to one of the three acceptable

forms of documentation previously mentioned. When using the IES to document enrollment, the following sections should be completed:

- Section 1
- Section 2A (Head Start check box)
- Section 3A (Enrollment Information)
- Section 3B (Name, Address, Contact Information, Signature and Date) must be completed

The IES has been updated to reflect Head Start enrollees. Copies of the IES may be obtained from Bright from the Start's web site: www.decal.state.ga.us.

For questions concerning this memorandum, please contact Sonja R. Adams, Policy Administrator, at (404) 651-8193.