

Response to Questions on the FY 2010 County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Public Process - Fall 2008

Request By: Public

Question: How and when is eligibility for Head Start and the Free and Reduced-Price Meals Program determined?

Response Prepared By: Fairfax County Public Schools

Response: **Family and Early Childhood Education Program (FECEP)/Head Start**
Family income provides the basis for eligibility for federal, state, or local spaces in the FECEP/Head Start program. Applications for the following school year begin in January. During the pre-application screening process, families are asked to verify their child's age, number of people in the immediate family, and gross income. If the family's reported income is within reduced-price meals guidelines, they are then eligible to apply to the program.

Eligible families officially apply through an application site where they are required to provide documentation verifying county residency and income along with each child's age.

Additional information can be found on the Fairfax County Public School's Web site at:

<http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/OECFS/fecep/>

Free and Reduced-Price Meals

Free and reduced-price meal eligibility is based on income and household size, as established by federal guidelines. Applications may be submitted any time during the school year as need arises, but the majority of applications are received and reviewed by Food and Nutrition Services during the first month of school with official eligibility figures provided to the state based on October 31 data.

Additional information can be found on the Fairfax County Public School's Web site at:

http://www.fcps.edu/fs/food/food_at_school/free_reduced/index.htm