



SB 708 (Mendoza) Implementation Fact Sheet School Lunch Online Applications

With the passage of [Senate Bill 708](#) (Mendoza), California became the first state in the country to establish standard policies for National School Lunch Program (NSLP) online applications. In order to reduce hunger among low-income school children and protect the information, safety, and privacy of all applicants, all School Districts and NSLP providers must be compliant with as of January 1, 2016.

SB 708 codifies federal guidance and establishes new standards for school districts or school food authorities that have an online application. To comply with these requirements, all online NSLP must:

- Include a link to translations of school meal applications [made available online by the U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#). SB 708 also codifies [existing regulations](#) that school food authorities participating in the NSLP must accept an application if it is one issued by the school district or one of the translated prototypes issued by the USDA.
- Limit “required fields” to only those required to make an eligibility determination.
- Protect privacy of applicant households by complying with the privacy rights and disclosure protections established by the federal [Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act \(Public Law 113-79\)](#) and the federal [Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 \(Public Law 105-277\)](#).
- Include links to online applications for:
 - CalFresh & CalWORKs (www.mybenefitscal.com)
 - Medi-Cal & Single State Application for HealthCare (<http://www.coveredca.com/apply/>)
 - The Women, Infant & Children Program (<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/wicworks/Pages/AboutWICandHowtoApply.aspx>)
 - Summer Lunch (<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sh/sn/summersites15.asp>)
- Comply with all other program rules established by the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services: Eligibility Manual for School Meals,” USDA, 18, Aug. 2014. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/cn/EliMan.pdf>

SB 708 Reinforces Rights for Paper Applicants: The passage of SB 708 also reinforced existing guidance and law that online and paper applications must have clear instructions for parents whose families are homeless or migrant workers, including instructions that an address **is not required** to be reported for these families.

Monitoring SB 708 Compliance in Your School District: There is no single state website or methodology for locating your school district’s school meal application or to know if your school district has an online application. However, this website will help you find your district’s main website if they have one: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/sd/>

To learn about the National Campaign to End Child Hunger, go to: <http://frac.org/initiatives/a-plan-to-end-hunger/campaign-to-end-childhood-hunger/> To learn more about child hunger in specific California communities, see: <http://www.kidsdata.org/topic/39/food-security/summary>

About Western Center on Law and Poverty: Western Center on Law and Poverty works to ensure that low-income Californians can easily access safe and affordable housing, adequate health care, and safety-net services. For more information about the our work to reduce childhood hunger visit www.wclp.org or contact Jessica Bartholow, jbartholow@wclp.org