

Topic: Oregon Expanded Income Eligibility Group Reimbursement Program

Overview

The Oregon Expanded Income Eligibility Group (EIG) Reimbursement Program is an Oregon funded school meal provision program. The program provides a supplemental reimbursement to the federal paid reimbursement amount for meals provided at no charge to students who qualify under Oregon EIG guidelines, but who do not qualify for free or reduced meals under federal income guidelines.

Key Facts:

- ✓ The Oregon EIG Reimbursement Program is funded through the Oregon Student Success Act of 2019 and went into effect July 20
- ✓ The purpose of the program is to increase access to and participation in school meal programs.
- ✓ The program is mandatory for all eligible schools and districts.
- ✓ Public schools or districts participating in the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program and are not using the Community Eligibility Provision are eligible to participate.
- ✓ The supplemental reimbursement rate for each meal category is the difference between the USDA federal free meal and the USDA paid meal reimbursement rate. The supplemental reimbursement rate includes the severe need differential, if applicable.
- ✓ The After School Snack Program is not included in the Expanded Income Eligibility Group Reimbursement Program.
- ✓ The Oregon EIG applies to students from households with incomes above 185% but not exceeding 300% of the federal poverty guidelines.
- ✓ Applications approved for Oregon EIG are not subject to verification
- ✓ Oregon EIG reimbursements must be deposited into the non-profit food service account.

Regulatory Reference:

[Oregon Administrative Rule 581-051-0615](#)
[Oregon House Bill 2536](#)

Oregon EIG Reimbursement Program Implementation Methods

- ✓ Application Method
- ✓ Census Method – Provision 2 Schools Only

The Application Method:

- ✓ Sponsors may use the Oregon Household Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals or online Household Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals provided by ODE or eligibility software providers.
- ✓ Sponsors will first determine student eligibility for free, reduced price, or paid categories using the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines and issue the Federal Notice to Household of Approval/Denial of Benefits
- ✓ Sponsors will then determine if applications in the federal paid/denied category are eligible for Oregon EIG, by referring to the Oregon Expanded Income Guidelines.
- ✓ Sponsors must issue the EIG approval letter if applicable, in addition to the Federal Notice of Denial of Benefits.
- ✓ Meals eligible for the supplemental EIG reimbursement are claimed under both the federal paid category and the Oregon EIG category in CNPWeb.

The Census Method:

- ✓ Schools participating in Provision 2 with a base year occurring prior to school year 2020-21 must use the EIG census method.
- ✓ ODE uses data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey to estimate the percentage of school aged children in the federal paid category that are from households with incomes above 185% but not exceeding 300% of the federal poverty guidelines. This percentage is the EIG Census Rate.
- ✓ The EIG Census Rate is calculated at the school district level and then applied at the site level.
- ✓ Once established the EIG Census Rate will not change until the site establishes a new base year.
- ✓ When a new base year is established, schools may no longer use the census method and are required to use the application method.
- ✓ The supplemental reimbursement is the school paid count times the EIG census rate for the district.

Helpful Resources:

- ✓ [Oregon Household Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals](#)
- ✓ [Oregon EIG Income Guidelines](#)
- ✓ [Oregon EIG Application Tip Sheet](#)

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