

Oregon Expanded Income Guidelines (EIG)

Question & Answer

1. What is the Oregon EIG Reimbursement Program?

The Oregon Expanded Income Guidelines (EIG) is part of the Student Success Act that was signed into law on May 20, 2019. The purpose of the program is to increase access to and participation in school meal programs. It is an Oregon funded school meal program that supports students who do not qualify for free and reduced meal benefits using federal income guidelines. It provides districts or schools 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.

Oregon EIG also expands reimbursement rates for schools participating in Provision 2 by supplementing the reimbursement for the paid student percentage.

2. Are Private Schools Eligible or Required to Participate in Oregon EIG?

Private schools are not eligible or required to participate in the Oregon EIG.

3. Are public schools or districts required to participate in Oregon EIG?

Yes, with the implementation of the Student Success Act, public schools or districts participating in the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program that are not using the Community Eligibility Provision are required to participate.

4. How does the Oregon EIG Reimbursement Program work?

Oregon Department of Education (ODE) reimburses participating schools for the reimbursable breakfasts and lunches they serve at no charge to students from households with incomes greater than 185 percent, but not more than 300 percent, of the federal poverty level.

The supplemental state reimbursement 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.

5. How will my school determine which students are eligible for this program?

- ✓ Sponsors will 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 or Denial of Benefits.
- ✓ Sponsors will then determine if applications in the federal paid or 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.

6. Does Oregon EIG apply to Provision 2 Non-base Year?

Schools already approved for Provision 2 with a base year occurring prior to school year 2020-2021 will receive supplemental Oregon EIG state reimbursement. ODE will use 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. This rate will automatically calculate when claims are submitted in CNPweb.

When establishing a new base year schools or districts will follow, steps outlined in question five.

7. How can schools or districts indicate participation in Oregon EIG?

In CNPweb, school or districts will select Oregon EIG participation method from the dropdown menu for NSLP and/or SBP for each site.

8. How do we file Oregon EIG claims?

Meals eligible for the supplemental Oregon EIG reimbursement are claimed under both the federal paid category and the Oregon EIG category in CNPWeb.

9. Do Oregon EIG students qualify for the same programs or discounts as students that are approved under the federal free and reduced prices guidelines?

No. Oregon EIG does not qualify the student for additional benefits that they would be qualifies for if they had been approved with the federal income guidelines.

10. Do we include Oregon EIG approved applications when performing the Verification process?

No, verification is a federal process. Approved Oregon EIG applications are considered federally denied applications.

11. Do approved Oregon EIG students count towards site eligibility for other CNP programs (ASSP, CACFP, SFSP)?

No, site eligibility is established using federal free and reduced determination. Approved Oregon EIG applications are considered federally denied applications.

12. During Administrative Reviews, what does the school/district need to provide for Oregon EIG?

During the Administrative Review, Oregon EIG applications will be reviewed as part of the federally denied application pool.

13. On the benefit issuance document, how does a school/district track a student qualified for Oregon EIG?

Benefit Issuance documents must reflect the student's federal eligibility category. Schools and Districts must keep benefit issuance documents up to date. If a school or district receives

updated household information, the school or district should follow the eligibility manual guidance. For example:

- ✓ Household submits an updated application
- ✓ Student is found on the direct certification list
- ✓ Student is determined foster through documentation or by the direct certification list
- ✓ Liaison determines student migrant or homeless

14. Where should we deposit our supplemental, state-funded meal reimbursements?

Public schools and public charter schools participating in either the CEP Incentive or EIG Reimbursement Programs must deposit their supplemental, state-funded meal reimbursements in their nonprofit school food service accounts.