

Provision 2 and the Oregon Expanded Income Guidelines (EIG) Questions & Answers

1. What is the Oregon Expanded Income Eligibility Group (EIG) Reimbursement Program with Provision 2?

The Oregon Expanded Income Eligibility Group (EIG) Reimbursement Program is an Oregon funded school meals 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 the Oregon EIG guidelines, but who do not qualify for free or reduced price meals under the federal income guidelines.

Provision 2 requires that the school serve meals to participating children at “no charge” but reduces application burdens to once every 4 years and simplifies meal counting and claiming procedures by allowing a school to receive meal reimbursement based on claiming percentages.

Oregon EIG Provision 2 combines the two, the Provision and the access to the Oregon EIG qualifying funds. Public schools and public charter schools are eligible to participate in Oregon EIG Provision 2. Private schools do not qualify for Oregon EIG.

2. What are the differences between the Oregon EIG Provision 2 Base Year and Non-Base Years?

Base Year

When establishing a Provision 2 base year, meal applications are collected and direct certification is used to determine student eligibility benefits. Meals are counted and claimed by student eligibility categories to establish the free, reduced price, and paid meal claiming percentages for years 2-4 in the provision’s four-year cycle. Public and public charter schools participating in a Provision 2 base year are eligible for the Oregon EIG Reimbursement Program. These Provision 2 schools must make reimbursable breakfasts and/or lunches available to all participating students at no charge, including to the Oregon EIG eligible students whose households have submitted applications with incomes greater than 185 percent but not more than 300 percent of the federal poverty level.

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) Child Nutrition Program (CNP) reimburses Oregon EIG students who qualify for the state funds. The Oregon EIG determined eligible students, a subset of the federally paid eligible students, who participate in the NSLP/SBP, will be included in determining the Oregon EIG Provision 2 claiming percentage separate from the federal claiming percentages.

Non-Base Years

Schools participating in Provision 2 with a base year prior to school year (SY) 2022-2023 must use the EIG Census Rate, known as the EIG Census method, to determine the Oregon EIG Provision 2 claiming percentage for years 2-4 in the cycle. The EIG Census Rate is calculated at the school district level, and then applied at the site level.

ODE CNP 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 to calculate the EIG Census Rate.

Provision 2 and the Oregon Expanded Income Guidelines (EIG) Questions & Answers

3. Are Private Schools Eligible to participate in Oregon EIG Provision 2?

No, Private schools are not eligible to participate in the Oregon EIG when operating Provision 2.

4. Are Provision 2 base-year participating schools required to participate in the Oregon EIG Program?

Yes, eligible public and public charter schools must make Oregon EIG available to households. Sites operating a Provision 2 non-base year are not required to operate Oregon EIG—meal applications are not collected in non-base years.

5. How will my school determine which students are eligible for Oregon EIG Provision 2 program during a base-year?

During a Provision 2 base year, each eligible school or sponsoring organization must collect the household application for free and reduced price school meals and certify for federal benefits (free, reduced, paid) first. Then, the school will review the federally denied applications to determine which households qualify for Oregon EIG using the EIG Income Guidelines.

- ✓ Sponsors will use the [Oregon EIG Household Application](#) for free and reduced price school meals or the online [Confidential Household Application for Free and Reduced Meals](#) provided by ODE or eligibility software providers.
- ✓ Sponsors will first determine student eligibility for federal 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 the 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 SY 2022-2023 will receive supplemental Oregon EIG state reimbursement. ODE CNP 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 the steps outlined above in question four.

7. How can schools or districts indicate participation in Oregon EIG Provision 2?

In CNPweb, public schools or public charter schools in a base year or a non-base year, will select from the dropdown menu, Participation type, “EIG Provision 2,” in each eligible site’s **Site Info Sheet** for the NSLP and/or SBP.

Provision 2 and the Oregon Expanded Income Guidelines (EIG) Questions & Answers

8. If my school participates in Provision 2 during a base year, 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. What happens to Oregon EIG Provision 2 claims in a non-base year?

During Provision 2 non-base years, CNPweb automatically calculates the additional payment using the EIG Census Rate for non-base years before (SY) 2022-2023.

10. 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 qualified for if they had been approved with the federal income guidelines.

11. During School Nutrition Program Administrative Reviews, what does the school/district need to provide for the Oregon EIG Provision 2?

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

12. On the benefit issuance document, how does a school/school district track a student qualified for Oregon EIG Provision 2?

Benefit issuance documents must reflect the student's federal eligibility categories, free/reduced/paid. Oregon EIG students must be tracked separately. Schools and school districts must keep benefit issuance documents up-to-date. If a school or a district receives updated household information, the school or district should follow the guidance in the [Eligibility Manual for School Meals](#). For example:

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

For federally denied meal applications, refer to the *Federal Income Guidelines Including NSLP/SBP Oregon Expanded Income Guidelines* chart to determine eligibility for the state benefit.

13. Is the verification process required for the Oregon EIG Reimbursement Program with Provision 2?

No. Verification is a federal regulatory requirement and only applications that are approved for free or reduced price benefits under the federal income guidelines are subject to the process in the base year. All following years of the Provision 2 cycle, when no meal applications are collected, the verification process is not required. However, completing and submitting the FNS-

Provision 2 and the Oregon Expanded Income Guidelines (EIG) Questions & Answers

742 Verification Collection Report is required annually regardless of base-year or non-base year status.

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

Public schools and public charter schools participating in the Oregon EIG Provision 2 must deposit their supplemental, state-funded meal reimbursements into their nonprofit school food service accounts.