

Memorandum

Date: March 19, 2021

To: School Food Service Administrators

From:  Mary Burks, Director
School Support Division

Subject: 2021-2022 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Applications

In 2008, Public Law 110-161 authorized funds for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP). This year the State of Mississippi anticipates receiving up to \$2,921,025 to distribute to local School Food Authorities for their individual schools. The purpose of this program is to increase fresh fruit and vegetable consumption in elementary schools. The program seeks to expand and increase the variety and amount of fruits and vegetables children experience and consume. Combined with nutrition education and a reinforcement of healthful eating habits, the program emphasizes the long-term goals of positively influencing children's life-long eating habits and combating childhood obesity.

To be selected for the FFVP, your school must participate in the National School Lunch Program, be an elementary school (an elementary school is a school offering any subset of grades K-8), submit an application for approval, and have 50 percent or more of its students eligible for free or reduced price meals. The requirements for school selection are very prescriptive and require that schools with the highest level of free and reduced price students enrolled receive priority.

If you are interested in applying for the 2021-2022 FFVP, complete and submit the enclosed 2021-2022 FFVP Application, you must submit an application to be eligible for the program. Please complete a separate application form for each **eligible** elementary school for which you are applying.

The deadline for submission of FFVP applications is Friday, May 21, 2021, at 3:30 p.m. Because of the limitation of funding for the FFVP and federal restrictions on allocation of funds, not all elementary schools with high free and reduced price eligible students will be able to participate in the program. We expect awards to be made in June 2021.

We encourage you to apply! If you have any questions regarding this application process, please contact the School Support Division at 601-576-5000.

21-04-CN

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.