



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

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DATE: December 20, 2017

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SUBJECT: State Agencies Selected for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018
National School Lunch Program Management Evaluations

TO: Regional Directors
Special Nutrition Programs
All Regions

State Directors
Child Nutrition Programs
All States

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is legislatively mandated to monitor program administration and the operation of its Food Assistance Programs. Each fiscal year, FNS utilizes Management Evaluations (MEs) to evaluate State agency operations. A ME supports the continual assessment of State agency program operations and includes an on-site review portion. Data gathered through this process provides a basis for assessing the administration of FNS programs and in planning future management objectives. The results are delivered in a report that indicates review findings, observations, and noteworthy initiatives.

FNS would like to announce that the following 15 State agencies (alphabetical order) will receive a National School Lunch Program (NSLP) ME in FY 2018:

1. Alabama
2. Arkansas - DOE
3. California
4. District of Columbia
5. Idaho
6. Indiana
7. Maine
8. Mississippi
9. Nebraska
10. Nevada
11. New Hampshire
12. New Jersey
13. North Dakota
14. Ohio
15. Texas

State agencies are assessed based on relative-risk for program administration issues, rather than by a calendar cycle. However, a State agency will automatically be selected for an NSLP ME if the State agency falls into the following criteria:

- 1) Has not been reviewed for a period of five years or longer, or
- 2) Receives the most State Administrative Expense (SAE) funds and has not been reviewed in the last four years.

In addition to the automatic selection categories listed above, several additional factors are evaluated. These include, but are not limited to: previous NSLP ME findings, the management of State agency funds, procurement practices, State agency program knowledge and oversight, and the accuracy and timeliness of reporting and data collection requests.

In an effort to ensure consistency with the process and focus resources where they are most needed, FNS will continue conducting targeted ME Technical Assistance (META) visits in addition to comprehensive MEs. A META visit is an opportunity for a State agency that may have ongoing program issues to receive targeted technical assistance by their respective Regional Office. Any State agency that received an ME in FY 2017 was assessed using the NSLP ME Risk Assessment Tool, but was not considered for a comprehensive ME for FY 2018. However, those State agencies can be selected to receive a META visit during FY 2018. State agencies receiving META visits will be notified by their respective Regional office. State agencies that received an ME in FY 2017 will again be evaluated for selection of a comprehensive ME in FY 2019. This approach will provide additional support to selected State agencies by delivering programmatic assistance where it is needed.

State agencies with questions should contact the appropriate FNS Regional Office for guidance.



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