
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: BOYD
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: CHIPS: FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH STUDENTS
DATE 6/29/00
CC: FILE

Any child who receives food stamps or TANF is automatically eligible for free lunch. The eligibility of other children is determined based upon a scale of the members in the household and the household income. The scale for free meals is based upon 130% of OMB's poverty guidelines and the scale for reduced meals is 185% of the same guidelines.

According to Rachel Stiff in Economic Assistance @ DHS, there were 26,413 children receiving TANF as of April 2000. 27,267 children were on TANF Medicaid. DHS only had the number of persons receiving food stamps and could not distinguish between age groups, but Stiff is having DHS personnel do more work in this area.

Stiff said that DHS has a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Education that provides for DHS to provide a computer tape to MDE on an annual basis which contains food stamp records and which will establish or verify eligibility for MDE's free and reduced lunch program. According to the Memorandum of Agreement (attached), MDE's Director of the Office of Child Nutrition is to submit a written request to DHS's Director of Economic Assistance by June 1 of each year soliciting a list of children ages 0 to 21 that are eligible for food stamps effective July 1 of that year.

Stiff also said that reviewing TANF and food stamp children for CHIPS eligibility is an ongoing process with field personnel. I conveyed her response to Raff, who said Stiff would know the answer and that he would agree with her answer.