



Montana  
Office of Public Instruction  
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

opi.mt.gov

Office of Public Instruction  
P.O. Box 202901  
Helena, MT 59620-2901  
(406) 444-3000  
(800) 731-4000  
(406) 444-0100 (TDD)  
opi.mt.gov

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To Determining Officials and Homeless Liaisons,

We at OPI would like to remind you that all homeless students are categorically eligible for free school meals. This eligibility is effective for the entire school year in which the student becomes homeless. Free school meals are often the only reliable source of food for homeless children, and it is critical that they be provided with this service immediately upon the determination of homeless status.

Homeless liaisons and school nutrition personnel should collaborate to provide a seamless method for identifying these students and providing access to free school meals. It is also important to ensure that students are properly marked as receiving free meals due to their homeless status both in the school's meal counting system and in the AIM system.

The OPI provides the following guidance, located on the Education for Homeless Children and Youth webpage, regarding the procedure for identifying homeless children in AIM.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Christine Emerson in black ink.

Christine Emerson, Director  
School Nutrition Programs

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Heather Denny in black ink.

Heather Denny, State Coordinator  
Education for Homeless Children and Youth