



*Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance*


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**Online Guide Transmittal 2017-104
December 1, 2017**

To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff
From:  Paul Sutliff, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations
Re: Cross Programs – DESE Direct Certification for Meal Programs

Overview

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in conjunction with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) work together to provide nutritious meals to low-income students. DTA and DESE collaborate to exchange data identifying children in households that receive SNAP and/or TAFDC assistance who attend public schools. This exchange of data is known as direct certification.

As part of the direct certification data exchange process, eligible families receive a notice from the Department in the summer to advise about the Summer Food Service Program and fall that informs their eligibility for free and/or reduced school meals programs. These notices are available in the Document History in each eligible family's Electronic Case Folder (ECF).

Purpose

This Transmittal advises staff of changes and revisions to the Online Guide with respect to the school meals program.

**Removed Online
Guide Page**

Topic: Cross Programs
Book: DESE
Page: DESE Overview

**Revised Online
Guide Page**

Topic: Cross Programs
Book: DESE
Page: Direct Certification for Meals Program
(Previously titled Direct Certification)

Questions

If you have any policy or procedural questions, after conferring with the appropriate TAO personnel, please have your Systems Information Specialists or TAO management email the DTA Mailbox.

Systems issues should be directed to the Systems Support Help Desk.
