



14 Computer Drive East  
Albany, NY 12205  
518.436.8757 PH  
518.427.7992 FAX  
[www.HungerSolutionsNY.org](http://www.HungerSolutionsNY.org)

**TO:** Food Service Directors, Members of the New York School Nutrition Association

**FROM:** Rachel Rupright, Child Nutrition Program Specialist

**DATE:** September 8, 2011

**RE:** Flooding, Power Outages, and Free School Meals

---

Because of the rain from Hurricane Irene and continuous flooding throughout NYS, many families with school-aged children have lost their homes, are displaced, are living in temporary shelters, and/or are experiencing changes in their household. These families may be in need of food assistance.

We wanted to remind you of the memo posted on the Child Nutrition Knowledge Center about homeless children and free school meals. **Read the memo [here](#).**

- **Homeless children qualify for free school meals.** Since many homes have been destroyed or condemned due to flooding, you may see an influx of children who qualify as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act. As you already know, these children are automatically eligible for free school meals for the entire school year. Families should contact your school district's McKinney-Veto liaison. [Click here for a list of all McKinney-Vento liaisons in NYS.](#)
  - Hunger Solutions New York has been conducting outreach around this issue. You may be contacted for assistance or further information.
- **Households are encouraged to re-apply for free or reduced-price school meals, even if they didn't previously qualify.** Families still living in their homes but experiencing changes in their household income or composition due to flood-related issues should complete/submit a free and reduced-price school meal application to their child's school.
- **If any meal applications have been destroyed during flooding,** your POS system, school district rosters or participation percentages from last year are options that may be used for eligibility/claiming.
- **If your school district is experiencing flood-related issues,** contact Jeannine Katchmar or Janet Micheli at NYSED at (518) 473-8781.

In addition, low-income families in areas experiencing flooding or power outages may have difficulty accessing food. For Food Stamp Program-related help and up-to-date information about replacement food stamps:

- Call Hunger Solutions New York: 1-800-865-5542 or [visit us online](#).
- Locate your local Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (if available) at [www.foodhelpny.org](http://www.foodhelpny.org) and connect with your nearest community-based service provider.

Please forward along this information to individuals, families, or other school professionals.

**For more information or questions about this memo, please [visit our website](#) or contact:**  
Rachel Rupright at (518) 436-8757 x121; [rachel.rupright@hungersolutionsny.org](mailto:rachel.rupright@hungersolutionsny.org)