

	MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM	ISSUED	REVISED	CHAPTER	SECTION
	AT-RISK AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL	7/1/03	2/12	2	2.3
CHAPTER Chapter 2. Eligibility Requirements		SUBJECT Area Eligibility			

To be eligible to participate in the at-risk afterschool meals component of CACFP, a program must be located in an eligible area. This means that the site is located in the attendance area of a public school (an elementary, middle, or high school) where at least 50 percent of the students are eligible for free or reduced price meals under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). This is referred to as “area eligibility.”

Only data from appropriate neighborhood school(s) may be used to establish a site’s area eligibility. School district-wide data may not be used to establish area eligibility. The organization operating an at-risk after school program may obtain eligibility information from MDHSS-BCFNA. MDHSS-BCFNA will verify with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s school data information to determine eligibility.

**Example:** If a Boys and Girls Club is located in the attendance area of a high school with less than 50% free or reduced price enrollment but is also in the attendance of a middle (or elementary) school where 50% or more of the enrolled children are certified as eligible for free or reduced price meals, then the Boys and Girls Club at-risk after school program would be area eligible.

Area eligibility determinations are based on the total number of children approved for free or reduced-price school meals for the preceding October. A site’s area eligibility determination made under CACFP is valid for 5 years [7 CFR § 226.17a(i)(3)]. Area eligibility based on school data as described above is the **ONLY** method for establishing site eligibility. Census data may not be used to determine area eligibility in the at-risk afterschool meals component of CACFP. Sites also may not collect participant income information to establish eligibility.

### Private and Charter School Data

Because most private schools (and some charter and magnet schools) do not have defined attendance areas, generally private school free and reduced-price enrollment data may not be used to determine area eligibility. However, if an at-risk afterschool program site is located in a private school, then that site may use the free and reduced-price enrollment data for that private school, or free and reduced-price enrollment data for the public school attendance areas in which the private school is located, to qualify as an area eligible site.

In areas that do not have specific assigned schools but allow children to enroll in any of the area schools, at-risk afterschool care programs located in school buildings should use the free and reduced-price enrollment data from the school they are located in to determine area eligibility. MDHSS-BCFNA will work with facilities on a case-by-case basis to determine the area eligibility of at-risk afterschool programs operating in non-school sites in areas with unassigned attendance areas. [*Afterschool Snacks in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the At-Risk Component of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Questions and Answers, Edition 3, December 1, 1999*]

### Busing

If an at-risk afterschool program is located in an area that has mandated busing of students, site eligibility based on school data may be determined using one of two methods. Eligibility may be based on the enrollment data obtained for:

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the school the children attend and are bused to, or  
the school the children would have attended were it not for the school's busing policy (the  
neighborhood school where the children live)

A site may be determined area eligible in situations as described above only if the School Foodservice Authority (SFA) can document the percentage of children eligible for free and reduced-price meals at each school before and after students are reassigned. The same method of determining site eligibility must be used for all sites participating under that program sponsor to avoid duplicate counting. [*CACFP 02-2011 Effects of Busing on Area Eligibility in Child and Adult Care Food Program December 6, 2010*]

References:

7 CFR 226.17a

CACFP 02-2011

*At-Risk Afterschool Meals A Child and Adult Care Food Program Handbook*, USDA/FNS, June 2011