



## Mississippi Department of Education

Tom Burnham, Ed. D. State Superintendent of Education

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### Office of Healthy Schools

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## Memorandum

**Date:** May 13, 2011

**To:** School Food Service Administrator

**From:** Scott Clements, Director  
Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition

**Subject:** 2011-2012 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Applications

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In 2008, Public Law 110-161 authorized funds for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP). The purpose of this program is to increase fresh fruit and vegetable consumption in elementary schools. This year the State of Mississippi will receive \$2,314,514 to distribute to local school districts for their individual schools. The purpose of the program is to expand and increase the variety and amount of fruits and vegetables children experience and consume. Combined with nutrition education and a reinforcement of healthful eating habits, the program emphasizes the long-term goals of positively influencing children's life-long eating habits and combating childhood obesity.

To be selected for the FFVP, your school must participate in the National School Lunch Program, be an elementary school (an elementary school is a school offering any subset of grades K-8), submit an application for approval, and have 50 percent or more of its students eligible for free or reduced price meals. The requirements for school selection are very prescriptive and require that schools with the highest level of free and reduced price students enrolled receive priority.

If you are interested in applying for the 2011-2012 FFVP, please complete and submit the 2011-2012 FFVP Grant Application. You must submit an application to be eligible for the grant. Please complete a separate application form on each eligible elementary school for which you are applying. Do not submit one application for the district. This application is also available on the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition website in PDF form: [http://www.healthyschoolsms.org/nutrition\\_services/index.html](http://www.healthyschoolsms.org/nutrition_services/index.html). You may save this form on your computer and make adjustments as necessary.

**The deadline for submission of FFVP applications is June 13, 2011 at 3:30 p.m.** Because of the limitation of funding for the FFVP and federal restrictions on allocation of funds, not all elementary schools with high free and reduced price eligible students will receive a grant. Schools that have a free and reduced percentage of 90% or greater are considered highly probable for receiving a Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) grant. The MDE, Office of Child Nutrition can choose not to select a high need school if the school:

- Fails to meet the application deadline;

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- Does not have the support of its administration; or
- The Office of Child Nutrition has concerns with the school's administration of a prior year's FFVP or other child nutrition program.

All eligible schools are encouraged to apply. Should you have any questions regarding this application process, please feel free to contact Stephanie N. Robinson at 601-576-4994.

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