



Tools from Learningtech: Form 471: Prep #1 - NSLP

Several school/district preparations will facilitate filing of the FCC Form 471. These applicant preparations are described in three *Tools from Learningtech* articles:

Form 471: Prep #1 – NSLP – School NSLP Data (This Tool)

Form 471: Prep #2 – Impact – Impact of Services Ordered on Schools

Form 471: Prep #3 – Budget – Certifications and Signature

School NSLP Data (Block 4 of Form 471)

The primary measure for determining E-rate discounts is the percentage of students eligible for free / reduced lunches under the National School Lunch Program [NSLP].¹ The FCC’s rationale for using NSLP data is as follows:

"[T]he national school lunch program determines students' eligibility for free or reduced-price lunches based on family income, which is a more accurate measure of a school's level of need than a model that considers general community income."

— FCC 97-157 ¶ 509

“Eligible” means that the student's family has submitted paperwork, (e.g., survey, application) documenting their eligibility for the Free/Reduced Lunch. *It doesn't matter whether the school serves lunch or not or whether the student eats the lunch or not, or whether the lunch is free or reduced price -- just whether or not he/she is eligible to receive it.*

Most commonly, this data is readily available from the First Period (P1) Report of Average Daily Attendance (ADA). However, any reasonably recent data, collected in a consistent manner, on a consistent date, is acceptable. Where and how the data was collected needs to be included with the data

Please prepare and return to Learningtech, a chart like this:

School Name	# of Students Enrolled	# of Student Eligible for NSLP

An emailed spreadsheet is optimal. (Alternatively, please fax to 866-801-8667.)

¹ Alternative measures of a school’s level of need are also acceptable (e.g., participation in programs such as Medicaid, Food stamps, Supplementary Security Income)