

# KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## FRESH FRUIT/VEGETABLE PROGRAM OPEN TO SCHOOLS

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is seeking elementary schools to participate in the federal Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) during the upcoming 2010-11 school year.

Kentucky has been allocated \$1,842,089 for use during the period beginning July 1, 2010, and ending June 30, 2011. At a minimum of \$60 per student over the course of the year, approximately 30,701 students can be served through the program.

Eligible schools are those containing grades preschool-6 or any combination thereof.

Participating schools must agree to offer free fresh fruits and vegetables to all enrolled students during the school day for a minimum of three days per week and at a time other than meal service periods.

Multiple schools from the same district can apply, although not all are guaranteed to be chosen.

Schools will be selected based on guidance and oversight by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Section 19(d) of the National School Lunch Act outlines the selection criteria for schools to participate in this program:

- Schools must have 50 percent or more of their students eligible for free/reduced-price meals.
- To the maximum extent possible, highest priority will be given to schools with the highest percentage of low-income students.
- Schools must be elementary schools or have the ability to separate out elementary students in a K-12 program.
- Schools must operate the National School Lunch Program.
- Schools must complete an annual FFVP application.  
(more)

**Visit our Web site at <http://www.education.ky.gov>.**

Funding for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program is available for the 2010-11 school year through the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (the Farm Bill), which amended the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act by adding Section 19, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. The purpose of the program is to increase fresh fruit and vegetable consumption of elementary school children, particularly low-income students who have fewer opportunities to consume fresh fruits and vegetables on a regular basis.

Interested schools should download the *Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Handbook*, which provides basics of the grant requirement. The handbook can be found at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/FFVP/Resources/FFVPhandbookFINAL.pdf>.

The grant application is located at <http://nhs.ky.gov>. Applications are due May 1, and awards will be announced no later than June 1. Funds will be available when school starts in August, and awarded school districts must enter into a written agreement with KDE.

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