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Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced Price Meals and Free Milk

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General Comment

This form looks easier to follow. The biggest issue I have with the verification process is the timing. We must give last year's applicants 30 school days into the new year to re-apply. That puts most school deadlines into the first week or two of October but we have to take our count of new free and reduced applications on Oct 1. A lot of families are still riding on last year's application at that time and will fill out a new one when they lose their benefits some time in October. This gives an inaccurate reflection of the number of free and reduced applications and students who qualify. Also, the time involved in filling out the form is grossly understated unless you have a very small school.