# SNP Memo #2022-2023-23


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: September 16, 2022

TO: Directors, Supervisors, and Contact Persons Addressed

FROM: Sandra C. Curwood, PhD, RDN, ***Sandy***

## SUBJECT: Low Cost Internet for Free and Reduced-Price Eligible Students and Families

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform school food authorities (SFAs) of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), a new program to lower internet costs for families with children who are eligible for free or reduced-price meal within the last 12 months.

No action is required, but SFAs are encouraged to make families aware of the ACP on their websites and in back to school communications. The [ACP Outreach Toolkit](https://www.fcc.gov/acp-consumer-outreach-toolkit) provides a variety of tools, including infographics, fact sheets, flyers, and sample social media posts to promote the ACP. The ACP may serve as an encouragement for families to complete free and reduced-price meal applications.

The ACP reduces the cost of internet for households who qualify. Households can qualify in one of two ways:

* a child in the household has been approved for free or reduced-price meals through the School Breakfast Program or the National School Lunch Program within the last 12 months, including children who attend schools participating in the Community Eligibility Provision, or
* the household is at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or a member of the household participates in other public assistance programs (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children; Medicaid; or Federal Public Housing Assistance).

A qualifying household will receive $30 per month towards internet services and a one-time discount of up to $100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet. Families can check their eligibility and register at [GetInternet.gov](http://www.getinternet.gov/) or by calling 877-384-2575.

This benefit is not considered income for the purpose of determining eligibility for free and reduced-price meals.

For more information, please contact your assigned School Nutrition Programs regional specialist or the SNP policy mailbox via email at SNPpolicy@doe.virginia.gov.

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