

Minnesota Department of  
**Education**

August 31, 2015

Mr. Peter Smerud, Executive Director  
Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center  
6282 Cranberry Road  
Finland, MN 55603

Dear Mr. Smerud:

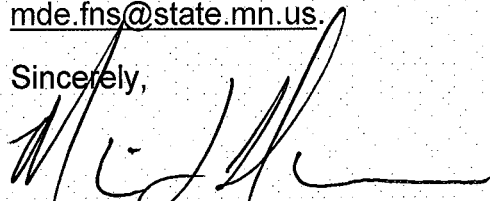
This letter is written in response to Lindsey Klemmer's request for documentation that school districts sending children to your program may release the names of children eligible for free and reduced price meals for the purpose of providing the children with free and reduced price meals at the environmental learning center.

The environmental learning center uses student eligibility information provided by school districts to claim meal reimbursements through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). These reimbursements help to defray the cost of meals and reduce the amount that school districts are billed for meals. A school district that does not provide eligibility information to the center is billed for the full cost of meals.

The center must maintain eligibility information provided by school districts as private data and use the data only for school meal purposes. Specific consent from households to release data is not needed for a school district to share eligibility information with the center for school meal purposes.

If you or a participating school district has any questions about sharing eligibility data, please contact our office at 651-582-8526, 800-366-8922 or email [mde.fns@state.mn.us](mailto:mde.fns@state.mn.us).

Sincerely,



Monica L. Herrera, Director  
Nutrition, Health and Youth Development Division