

## Nevada Department Of Education Free Lunch & Breakfast

The Department of Education announced today the income guidelines to be used to determine eligibility of children to receive free lunch and breakfast during the 1973-74 school year. These income levels are the maximum allowable under law and are 25% above the minimum income poverty guidelines established by the Secretary of Agriculture. Children from families whose income is at or below the applicable family size income shown on the table below will qualify for free meals.

Family Size	Income
1	\$2,740
2	3,600
3	4,460
4	5,310
5	6,100
6	6,890
7	7,600
8	8,310
9	8,960
10	9,600
11	10,240
12	10,880

Each additional family member \$640

Eleanor Bateman, State Supervisor of Food Services believes the increase in the amount of allowable income will enable more children from low income families to have a nutritious lunch at school. Approximately 8,950 children were receiving free lunch in Nevada public schools during the 1972-73 school year.

## Physicians Learn The "Feel" Of "MBD" -- Urged To Recognize And Treat It Early

In a demonstration designed to help physicians in private practice to actually get the "feel" of a condition known as "minimal brain dysfunction," they were asked to participate in a number of learning disability tests.

The demonstration was part of a course for physicians in private practice on management of the child with MBD. The two days of seminars in Jacksonville, Florida, were sponsored by the Child Guidance Clinic there; the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, University of Arkansas Medical Center; and CIBA Pharmaceutical Company as part of its Medical Horizons Postgraduate Education Series.

Joanna S. Davis, MS, Language and Education Specialist at the Arkansas Center, conducted the tests and reports that many of the physicians who had thought they "understood" found that they hadn't "felt" what MBD was really like before--the frustration and the confusion that the child experiences.

MBD refers to children with certain learning or behavioral disabilities associated with deviations of functioning of the central nervous system. There are an estimated 2,000,000 MBD children in the U.S.

These are children of at least normal intelligence who are often disruptive in school and at home, may talk out of turn, or touch things much like youngsters years younger than themselves. They may be volatile, impatient, clumsy, unpredictable in their behavior. At home they may "drive their mothers up the wall".

John E. Peters, MD, course director, and Head, Child and Adolescent Division, University of Arkansas Medical Center, said that "MBD may be a mild handicap in the sense of physical health, but it is a major handicap with regard to the demands of school and modern society."

He and Reginald V. Berry, MD, Director of the Jacksonville Clinic said that the MBD child needs to be evaluated on the basis of reports from home, school, and physician.

The faculty for the course urged that MBD be recognized and treated at an early age, or the child afflicted is likely to develop some form of maladjustment in later life.

Management of the problem, they agreed, included an educational, psychological, and medical approach.

Medication is not indicated for all children with MBD, Dr. Peters said. It is used when other remedial measures--educational, social, psychological, and home management--have proved insufficient to provide the help the child needs to reach his potential. Medication is then selected and the dosage determined on an individual basis.

Medically supervised use of stimulant medications, Dr. Peters explained, enable the MBD

child to benefit from learning experiences by permitting him to concentrate for longer periods of time, and to focus attention on completing specific tasks without being easily distracted by outside stimuli.

The psychiatrist stressed the need for co-operation of the parent not only in the use of medications but in all other aspects of treatment.

"Each MBD child is different and must be considered as an individual", Dr. Peters added. Each cuts his own profile of deficits and assets.

The physician in private practice is usually the first professional the mother consults. Dr. Peters said that he has an important role in helping to prevent psychiatric maladjustments, and in increasing the child's chances for developing a more productive life.

## Iowa Educator Becomes President - Elect Of Nat'l Education Association

WASHINGTON, D.C.--James A. Harris, a Des Moines, Iowa, art and human relations teacher, today was elected vice president (president-elect) of the 1.3 million-member National Education Association, the nation's largest professional group.

Harris was chosen by secret ballot of NEA's 9,000-member Representative Assembly in annual convention in Portland, Ore., July 6.

He will move up to the presidency in July 1974, succeeding Dr. Helen Wise, a State College, Pa., teacher. As president-elect and president, he will serve fulltime from offices in NEA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., for the next two years.

Among Harris' major concerns will be: increased influence in Congress, "lifting education to the top of the nation's priorities and making the NEA legislative goals a reality"; working with other public employee groups to create "a political force to be reckoned with"; minority guarantees to delegate bodies based on minority membership within each state; teacher influence of teacher preparation and in-service training; student involvement in all aspects of the association; and "a program that moves NEA to a position of action rather than reaction."

The president-elect favors permitting any qualified educator to join NEA, but recommends proportional representation for classroom teachers in the association's governing bodies. He will support coalitions with outside teacher groups, provided NEA remains autonomous. He does not believe an NEA-union merger is desirable.

The 46-year-old Iowan, now on the staff of Callanan Junior High School, has taught in Des Moines since 1954. He began his career in 1948 as an elementary school teacher in Kansas, City, Kan. In 1953-54 he taught in Langston College (now University), Langston, Okla.

The educator and prize-winning artist has been an NEA director from Iowa for seven years and a member of the NEA Budget Committee the last two years. He was on the steering committee for the association's Constitutional Convention, the first since the organization was formed in 1857.

With Dr. Wise he is co-chairman of NEA's Committee on the American Revolution Bicentennial. In connection with that role he has developed plans for Project EDUCATE (Educators Deployed to Underdeveloped Countries Affecting Total Education) as one possible NEA commitment to mark the observance of the nation's founding.

One of Harris' prime interests has been improvement of school lunch programs. He was the motivating force behind NEA's legislative efforts aimed at expanding the federal school lunch program to provide free or reduced price lunches for more needy children. He was NEA consultant to the 1970 White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, and Health.

Harris has served on many committees of the Iowa State Education Association, including the Horace Mann Retirement Home Committee, and has been active in the Des Moines Education Association. Both he and his wife, Jackie, a (see HARRIS, page 4)

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