**The Sharing of School Meal**

**Eligibility Information**

Get the answers you need!

Dear **[Insert District Name]** families:

To clarify questions related to the sharing of your information when applying for free or reduced-price school meals, **[Insert District Name]** has prepared the following collection of frequently asked questions and answers.

**Q: What impact does undocumented or documented immigration or refugee status have on my child receiving free or reduced price school meals?**

**A:** None. Public school districts that participate in the National School Lunch Program and/or the School Breakfast Program, like **[Insert District Name]**,are required to process all submitted applications for free or reduced-price school meals, regardless of immigration or refugee status and without discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin. Eligibility is based on criteria outlined in the free and reduced-price school meal application instructions.

**Q: What does public charge mean?**

**A:** Public charge is used by immigration to decide whether a person can enter the U.S. or get a green card/visa. Within this decision making process, the totality of a person’s circumstances are reviewed including their participation in assistance programs such as SNAP, Medicaid, public housing, cash assistance, etc.

**Q: If I apply for free or reduced-price school meals, is this considered a public charge?**

**A:** No. Applying for free or reduced-price school meals is not considered an assistance program on the grounds of public charge and will not affect green card or visa status. Additionally, **[Insert District Name]** does not report meal application information to migrant, immigration or refugee offices.

**Q: Does the [Insert District Name] free and reduced-price school meal application ask for an immigration, migrant, citizenship or refugee status?**

**A:** No. Immigration, migrant, citizenship or refugee status is not asked for during the application process, and families should continue to apply for free or reduced-price school meals. The application does require the last four numbers of a Social Security number or an indication that there is no Social Security number. Social Security number information is *not* reported to any organization outside of **[Insert District Name]**.

**Q: Does [Insert District Name] ever share students’ free or reduced-price school meal information?**

**A:** Free and reduced-price school meal application information may be shared with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund or determine beneﬁts for their programs. Families have the option to decline allowing their information to be shared with local education programs, Medicaid offices and/or State Children’s Health Insurance Programs (SCHIP).

**Q: What should I do if I feel like my student or I have been the victim of discrimination or harassment when filling out or submitting a free or reduced price school meal application?**

**A: [Insert District Nutrition Civil Rights Complaint Procedure and/or District Complaint Procedure Policy]**

**[Insert District Contact]**

### WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

* <https://protectingimmigrantfamilies.org/know-your-rights/>
* [Insert District Webpage]
* CDE, School Meal Eligibility webpage: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/schoolmealeligibility>