

# Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Update

Effective 7/1/2021



## USDA Extension of Seamless Summer Option

The USDA extended the option for child nutrition program sponsors to operate the [Seamless Summer Option](#) through the 2021-22 school year.

If a sponsor chooses to operate the Seamless Summer Option in their district, this means that all students eat for free (regardless of lunch eligibility status). **Even though all students can eat for free, sponsors are able to collect free and reduced-price meal applications for purposes of Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT). If a sponsor chooses to opt out of the P-EBT program by not providing needed student data, it is not permissible to disseminate, process, or collect the free and reduced-price meal application. Sponsors opting out of the P-EBT program must instead use the [Family Economic Data Survey \(FEDS\)](#) form.**

For more information about P-EBT visit the Colorado Department of Human Services, P-EBT [webpage](#).

**Additionally, sponsors must still have documentation to support free and reduced-price lunch eligibility if reported as such in the Student October Count Snapshot.**



## Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Audit Documentation

As outlined in the 2021 [At-Risk/Free Lunch Audit Resource Guide](#):

- Acceptable documentation to evidence lunch eligibility status includes:
  - Inclusion on a district's Direct Certification list
  - Application for Free and Reduced-Priced School Meals
  - Family Economic Data Survey (FEDS) form
  - Categorical Eligibility Determination Lists (example: homeless list, migrant list, foster child list, etc.)
- Current year documentation must be dated on or between July 1, 2021 and October 1, 2021
- Prior Year Documentation
  - If no current year documentation is received within the date range above, then prior year documentation may be used to report lunch eligibility within the Student October Count data submission.
  - Prior year documentation can be used if:
    - The pupil enrollment count date (10/1/21) falls within the first 30 school days, or
    - The district requests, and is granted, a variance waiver that allows the district to extend the carryover period for at-risk reporting only.
      - Variance Waiver requests can be sent to Jennifer Okes ([okes\\_j@cde.state.co.us](mailto:okes_j@cde.state.co.us)) no later than September 15, 2021.

For more information, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/summerfoodserviceprogram> or contact the Colorado Department of Education School Nutrition Unit at [summermealprogram@cde.state.co.us](mailto:summermealprogram@cde.state.co.us).