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UTAH STATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE
schools.utah.gov

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For Immediate Release

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School Lunch, Breakfast and Special Milk Policy Announced

SALT LAKE CITY – The Utah State Office of Education today announced its policy for free and reduced-price meals and free milk for children unable to pay the full price of meals or milk served under the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, and/or Special Milk programs. If a local education agency (LEA) such as a school district or charter school participates in the program, is will have a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

The attached household size and income criteria will be used for determining eligibility this year. Children from families whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced-price meals and/or free milk.

Children or households currently approved for food stamps (SNAP), food distribution program on Indian reservations (FDPIR), or family employment program (FEP) are eligible for free milk or free meal benefits once the LEA is made known. LEAs will approve these children or households for free meals through the direct certification process and no application is required for free meal benefits. LEAs will notify households of eligibility and children will be provided free meal benefits unless the household notifies the school that it chooses to decline

benefits. All children in these households are eligible for free meal benefits and if any child was not listed on the eligibility notice, the household should contact the school to have benefits extended to that child. If a child or household receive benefits under assistance programs or other source programs are not notified by the school of their free meal benefits, the parent or guardian should contact the school.

Application forms or instructions to complete an online application form for those not directly certified have been sent home including a letter to parents or guardians. To apply for free or reduced-price meals or free milk, households should fill out the application and return it to the school or district office. The information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school or other program officials. Children's names, eligibility status and other information provided on the paper application or obtained through direct certification may be disclosed to certain other federal, state, or local agencies as authorized by the National School Lunch Act (NSLA).

For the school officials to determine eligibility, the household must provide the following information listed on the application: names of all household members; last four digits of the Social Security Number of the adult completing the application, or a statement that the person does not possess one; the income received by each household member with income frequency and income source noted; and the signature of an adult household member certifying that the information provided is correct.

Applications may be submitted at any time during the year. If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household situation changes, the family should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for free or reduced-price meals or free milk.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price policy, a designated approving official at a LEA will review applications and determine eligibility. If parents or guardians are dissatisfied with the ruling of the official, they may discuss the decision on an informal basis with the approving official. If the parents or guardians wishes to make a formal appeal, they may make a request either orally or in writing to the LEA hearing official by contacting the local school food service supervisor for more information. The policy contains an outline of the hearing procedure.

Foster children who are legal wards of the court are eligible for free meal benefits. If a household has foster children and wishes to apply for meal benefits for such children, the household should complete the application.

When known to the Local Education Authority, households will be notified of any child's eligibility for free meals if the individual child is Other Source Categorically Eligible because the child is categorized as: homeless, migrant or runaway as defined by law; or enrolled in an eligible Head Start, Even Start (pre-school and pre-kindergarten children) as defined by law.

The information provided by the household is confidential and will be used only for purposes of determining eligibility and verifying data, unless a wavier releasing the use of the information for other specific programs is signed by the parent or guardian. Families directly

certified will receive a wavier release form for their signature with the notification letter. The household name and address will be given to the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) unless "No" is checked on the back of the application.

Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children (WIC) may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Individuals should complete an application for free and reduced price meals and return it to the school where the child is enrolled. The family will be notified of the child's eligibility.

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Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish).

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The Income Eligibility Guidelines for free and reduced price school meals and free milk are shown below. The Income Eligibility Guidelines are also located online at http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/notices/iegs/IEGs.htm.

Income Eligibility Guidelines

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	Effective from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014										
	REDUCED PRICE MEALS-185%						**FREE MEALS-130%**				
	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY		ANNUAL	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY
48 CONTIGUOUS STATES, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, GUAM, AND TERRITORIES											
1.	21,257	1,772	886	818	409		14,937	1,245	623	575	288
2.	28,694	2,392	1,196	1,104	552		20,163	1,681	841	776	388
3.	36,131	3,011	1,506	1,390	695		25,389	2,116	1,058	977	489
4.	43,568	3,631	1,816	1,676	838		30,615	2,552	1,276	1,178	589
5.	51,005	4,251	2,126	1,962	981		35,841	2,987	1,494	1,379	690
6.	58,442	4,871	2,436	2,248	1,124		41,067	3,423	1,712	1,580	790
7.	65,879	5,490	2,745	2,534	1,267		46,293	2,858	1,929	1,781	891
8.	73,316	6,110	3,055	2,820	1,410		51,579	4,294	2,147	1,982	991
For each add'l family member, add	7,437	620	310	287	144		5,226	436	218	201	101