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UTAH STATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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For Immediate Release

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National School Lunch, School Breakfast and Special Milk Policy Announced

SALT LAKE CITY – Statewide Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) today announced their policy for free and reduced-price meals and free milk for children unable to pay the full price of meals/milk served under the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, and/or Special Milk programs. If the LEA participates in the program, they 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/free milk.

Children/households currently approved for Food Stamps (SNAP), Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, or Family Employment Program (FEP) are automatically eligible for free milk or free meal benefits through the Direct Certification process. Households will be notified by the LEA of their eligibility and children will be provided free benefits unless the household notifies the school that it chooses to decline benefits.

Application forms 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 their 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.

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 will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent or guardian is dissatisfied with the ruling of the official, he/she may wish to discuss the decision on an informal basis. If the parent/guardian wishes to make a formal appeal, he/she may make a request either orally or in writing to the 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.

The information provided by the household is confidential and will be used only for purposes of determining eligibility and verifying data, unless a waiver releasing the use of the

information for other specific programs is signed by the parent/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.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The income eligibility guidelines for free and reduced price meals and free milk are shown below.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES										
		Effective from		July 1, 2012		to		June 30, 2013		
HOUSEHOLD SIZE	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	20,665	1,723	862	795	398	14,521	1,211	606	559	280
2	27,991	2,333	1,167	1,077	539	19,669	1,640	820	757	379
3	35,317	2,944	1,472	1,359	680	24,817	2,069	1,035	955	478
4	42,643	3,554	1,777	1,641	821	29,965	2,498	1,249	1,153	577
5	49,969	4,165	2,083	1,922	961	35,113	2,927	1,464	1,351	676
6	57,295	4,775	2,388	2,204	1,102	40,261	3,356	1,678	1,549	775
7	64,621	5,386	2,693	2,486	1,243	45,409	3,785	1,893	1,747	874
8	71,947	5,996	2,998	2,768	1,384	50,557	4,214	2,107	1,945	973
For each add'l family member, add	7,326	611	306	282	141	5,148	429	215	198	99