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For Immediate Release

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Free or Reduced Price Lunches Programs Available at Participating Utah Schools

SALT LAKE CITY – Students across the state are now eligible to apply for free or low-cost meals and/or free milk through the USDA National School Lunch Program (NSLP) at participating schools. The NSLP, established in 1946 under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, provides nutritionally balanced lunches to approximately 30 million students in public and nonprofit private schools through subsidies.

Eligibility Criteria:

- **Categorical Eligibility:**

- Participation in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Family Employment Program (FEP)/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).
- Status as a homeless, migrant, runaway, or foster child.
- Enrollment in a federally funded Head Start Program or comparable State-funded pre-kindergarten program.
- Medicaid cases where the household size and income align with income-based eligibility levels. These households will receive notification from their student's participating school. Medicaid case numbers cannot be accepted on school meal applications to determine eligibility.

- **Income-Based Eligibility:**

- **Free Meals:** Household income at or below 130 percent of the Federal poverty level.

- **Reduced-Price Meals:** Household income between 130 and 185 percent of the Federal poverty level. Schools cannot charge more than 40 cents for a reduced-price lunch.
- For current income-related eligibility guidelines, please visit www.fns.usda.gov/cn/%20income-eligibility-guidelines.

To apply for the NSLP, parents may contact their participating school or district to submit a school meal application at any time throughout the school year. A list of participating schools is available on [the USBE website](#).

Please note that the Utah State Board of Education is an equal opportunity provider and operates in accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies. A full copy of the statement is available at this [link](#).

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