Welcome!

We’ll get started soon. While we wait for other attendees to join, please answer this question in the chat box:

Do you have any new menu items that you’re excited to serve?
Benefits for Everyone

Best practices and considerations for school meal applications and alternative income forms

August 15, 2023
Things to Know as We Begin

• The slide deck will be shared via email after the webinar along with the recording.

• To engage with other attendees, please use the chat box.

• If you have questions for the speakers, please enter those into the Q&A box.

• Closed captioning is available.
Agenda

- Why Are School Meal Applications and Alternative Income Forms Important?
- Considerations for Increasing Application/Form Submissions
  - Communicate their purpose
  - Recruit allies
  - Be creative with naming
  - Consider your community
  - Leverage communication platforms
  - Incentivize submissions
Why Are School Meal Applications and Alternative Income Forms Important?
Benefits for Everyone!

**Students & Households**
- Increases affordability of school meals
- Frees up households’ time and money
- Increases access to out-of-school-time nutrition programs
- Provides eligible students with discounts on tests (e.g., AP exams, ACT, SAT)

**Schools & Districts**
- Improves affordability of meals, which can contribute to school/district performance metrics
- Reduces likelihood and magnitude of unpaid meal debt
- Increases school/district funding
- Increases access to out-of-school-time nutrition programs
Considerations for Increasing Form Submissions
Communicate Their Purpose

Determine eligibility for free and reduced-price school meals

Contribute to determination of economic status of school/district population, which impacts school/district funding as well as community resources

In your community, who needs to know this?
Recruit Allies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRP data impacts...</th>
<th>...so consider recruiting...</th>
<th>...to help by...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School funding</td>
<td>Principal, Business Officer, other school administrators</td>
<td>• Providing a signed letter explaining the purpose of the forms and asking that forms be returned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District funding</td>
<td>Superintendent, other district administrators</td>
<td>• Promoting school meals benefits and completion of forms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology and library funding</td>
<td>IT and library staff, local library staff</td>
<td>• Making forms available outside the school environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out-of-school-time meal availability</td>
<td>Community organizations serving child and families</td>
<td>• Providing assistance with completion of applications.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Enrolling families in programs that provide direct certification for free/reduced-price school meals.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Be Creative with Naming

• Match the name of the form with its purpose.
• Ask others which name(s) they like.

2023 - 2024 Delaware Prototype Meal Benefit Form
Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil).

STEP 1 List ALL Household Members who are infants, children, and students

Delaware – free/reduced-price meals form

Arkansas – CEP/Provision 2 alternative income form

2023-2024 Multi-Use Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals
Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil).

STEP 1 List ALL Household Members who are infants, children, and students

Texas – free/reduced-price meals + other programs

Minnesota – CEP/Provision 2 alternative income form
Consider Your Community

- Which languages are spoken?
- Does everyone have internet access?
- Who are your students’ caretakers?
- Who does your community trust?

What are some other important factors to consider about your community?
Leverage Communication Platforms

• Send applications out with back-to-school information and talk about them during back-to-school events.
• Post flyers in places where families go.
• Social media and text messaging can be effective.
• Access TV, radio, and print media.
• Ask local community organizations how they are reaching families.
• Remind families throughout the year that forms can be submitted.
Incentivize Submissions

Lotus School (Colorado)

Want FREE school supplies, a new Lotus mask and a chance to win a TV?! Then stop by our Free and Reduced Lunch Application Workshop:

Aug. 27th through Sept. 3rd
3:00 pm - 12:00 pm
K-12

If you choose to fill out the application at home you will STILL BE ENTERED to win the grand prizes!

Free/Reduced Lunch Application

- Completing a free/reduced lunch application now will ensure benefits will continue without interruption when the federal extension expires.
- Anyone who completes a free/reduced lunch application for this school year by midnight 9/30/20 will be included in a drawing for a free 50" smart TV.
- Any family who already submitted an application for this school year is already entered and does not need to fill out a second application to be registered in the drawing. Please use this link to complete your on-line application:

http://frapes.horizonteslona.com/adms31

Lotus School (Colorado)

Which incentives work for your community?
Stay in Touch!

Subscribe to our newsletter:
www.bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/subscribe

Visit our website:
www.bestpractices.nokidhungry.org
Resources

School Meals Applications Outreach Toolkit

The toolkit is designed to help school districts get the word out to families about why completing and submitting free and reduced-price school meals applications is important. The toolkit includes sample language, graphics, and templates to use for your outreach efforts.
Your Feedback is Appreciated!

At the conclusion of this webinar, a 5-question survey will open in your browser window.

Please take a moment to complete it.
Thank You for Attending!

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