

# Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Update

October 13, 2020



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

## USDA Extension of Summer Food Service Program

On October 9, 2020, the USDA extended the option for child nutrition program sponsors to operate the Summer Food Services Program and Seamless Summer Option through as late as June 30, 2021 (dependent on available funding).

If a sponsor decides to extend these programs in their district, this means that all students eat for free (regardless of lunch eligibility status). **Even though all students can eat for free, districts must still have documentation to support free lunch eligibility if reported as such in the Student October Count Snapshot.**

## Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Audit Documentation

As outlined in the 2020 [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, 2020 and October 1, 2020
- 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 Snapshot.
  - Prior year documentation can be used if:
    - The pupil enrollment count date (10/1/20) 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, 2020.



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).