

Child Nutrition Programs

If school districts participate in the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, or the Special Milk Program, near the beginning of the school year, they must provide both parents and the public information about free and reduced price meals and/or free milk. 7 C.F.R. § 245.5. Districts must also provide parents an application form. If districts want to disclose children's free and reduced eligibility status, they may do so in some instances usually only with prior notice and/or consent. 42 U.S.C. § 1758(b)(6)(D)(ii).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's document entitled *Eligibility Guidance for School Meals Manual* contains an explanation of the required notices and a sample notice and application form. The document also contains a chart describing to whom, and under what conditions, information regarding free and reduced eligibility status may be disclosed. Relevant notices appear in the appendices:

http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Guidance/eligibility_guidance.pdf