

# National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs

**McKinney Vento and  
Migrant Liaison  
Conference**



UTAH  
**Child  
Nutrition  
Programs**



*This institution is an  
equal opportunity  
provider.*

# National Program:

- National School Lunch Act 1946
  - Signed by President Harry Truman
  - Permanently authorized federal support of school lunch programs
  - The bill provided for meals based on tested nutrition standards, included all children, prohibited discrimination of any type, provided funds for non-surplus foods, and required accountability through record keeping and reporting.



# NSLP Then & Now...

1946 Lunch Program...



...Lunch Program today

# National School Lunch Program (NSLP)

## Federal Program

- Federally assisted meal program
- Reimbursement is received for ALL student meals served, not just free and reduced-price meals
- USDA Foods (“commodities”) provide high quality food to supplement program
- USDA Sets the Standards or meal program “rules”

## Nationally

Each day in America, about 30 million children eat a NSLP lunch and 14.7 million children eat a school breakfast

- 4,864,655,303 lunches served in 2018
- 2,421,914,982 breakfasts served in 2018

## In Utah

- 55,139,695 lunches served in 2018
- 14,138,850 breakfasts served in 2018
- 140 “sponsors” of program
  - More than 75 Charter or Private Schools

# Does Lunch at School Really Matter?



School meals may be the only food some students get each day



Some students are not be able to bring their own meal from home



Kids need nutrition to learn

Early as 1904 (book titled "Poverty") recognized this link



Funding a lunch program without federal support is difficult



Meal programs are an important part of addressing the overall needs of each student



# NSLP: How It Works

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- Production Records
- Planned Weekly Menu
- CN Labels, Crediting Info

Qualifying Meals per USDA



- Daily Counts
- Monthly Edit Checks
- Production Records
- Voids/Late Adds

Records of Who Ate



- Free/Reduced Apps
- Direct Cert Lists
- Eligibility Updates

Eligibility Status of Each Student



\$\$  
Federal Reimbursement  
\$\$

# Free & Reduced-Price Eligibility

- Once established, is in place for entire school year plus 30 days into next school year regardless if student/household circumstances change
- Can be based on Household Income:
  - Child Nutrition Program Income application
  - Direct Certification from another assistance program that reviewed income
    - SNAP
    - TANF
    - Medicaid
    - Headstart
- Direct Certification from Liaison – McKinney Vento, Runaway, Migrant
- Direct Certification from Foster Agency



# Free Eligibility

- Free eligibility extended from one qualifying person to ALL STUDENTS IN HOUSEHOLD:
  - SNAP (DC)
  - TANF (DC)
  - FDPIR (DC)
  - Medicaid-Free (DC)
  - Income Application
- Qualifies an INDIVIDUAL STUDENT for Free meals:
  - Foster – court placed/ward of state (DC +)
  - McKinney-Vento Act/Homeless
  - Runaway Homeless Youth Act
  - Migrant Education Program
  - Headstart Program (Pre-K)

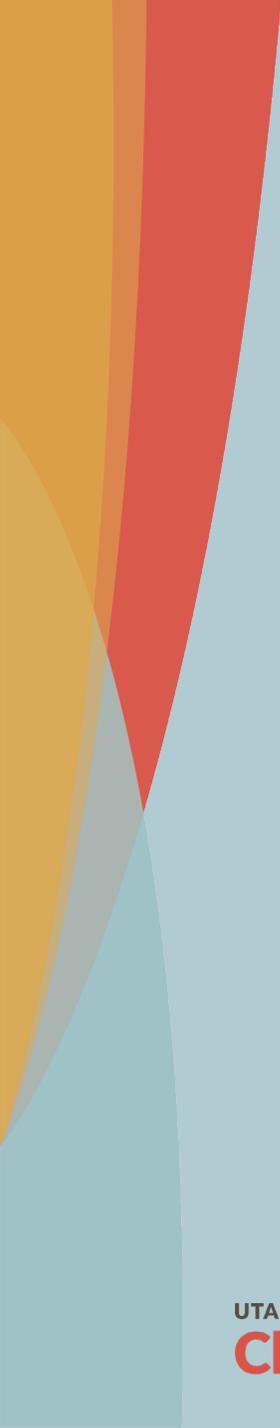
# Meal Benefits Hierarchy

What if a student qualifies for benefits in multiple ways?

- Follow this hierarchy to assign benefits correctly:
  - SNAP Direct Certification
  - TANF/FEP, Foster, or FDPIR Direct Certification
  - Medicaid Free Direct Certification
  - Free Application (Categorical & Other Source)
  - Free Application (Income)
  - Medicaid Reduced Direct Certification
  - Reduced Application (Income)
  - Paid (Denied Application)

# Students New to McKinney- Vento and Free Eligibility for School Meals?

- All students receive same meal and all students go through same meal service line(s) where students are not segregated nor identified as qualifying for free meals in any way
- Students do not need to worry that other students will know they are receiving free lunch/breakfast or worry that kitchen workers will ask them about whether they are “free” or not



# Frequently Asked Questions

McKinney-Vento Liaison Questions

UTAH

**Child Nutrition Programs**

# What type of form or documentation is needed to certify McKinney-Vento Students\*?

Eligibility Manual 2017-18, page 40:

- Acceptable documentation [7 CFR 245.2] to establish eligibility based on homelessness includes:
  - A list of names of homeless children;
  - The effective dates and the signature of a homeless liaison; or
  - A letter from a homeless liaison provided by the household to the school confirming the child is currently homeless.



# Who should Liaison talk to when the nutrition person disagrees with the McKinney- Vento designation?

- If the school you are at is part of a district, contact the Food Service Director for the district
- If the district (or charter school) you are at is disagreeing, contact Child Nutrition Programs at USBE – School’s Team (801) 538-7680
  - Child Nutrition Programs supports all Liaisons as the Certifying Official for McKinney-Vento/homeless, migrant, and runaway designation

# Where does the charge for food go for a McKinney-Vento student? Who gets to pay for the food?

- USDA regulation indicates student's first meal must be free to qualifying student (meals must meet requirements for a "reimbursable" meal)
  - No charge is assigned to student or household when qualifying for free meals
  - School receives free reimbursement rate from federal government to cover cost of meal served
- Second meals or A la Carte options are not reimbursed by USDA and are typically charged to student
  - Charge would go on student's account and household would be held accountable for charges for items that were outside of meal

# Can a household designate themselves as “Homeless”?

- USDA Income Application has boxes where a household can check either “Homeless,” “Migrant,” or “Runaway”
- School may extend free benefit to family while Liaison is contacted
- Liaison must certify designation indicated by household
  - Certified with list of students with Name, Title, and Signature of Liaison
- If Liaison does not certify students, free benefit will be removed
- If a household app has only some members with a homeless/migrant/runaway designation, other members will not be extended free benefit



Additional  
Questions?