

# The Sharing of School Meal Eligibility Information

Get the answers you need!



Dear **Colorado Springs School District 11** families:

To clarify questions related to the sharing of your information when applying for free or reduced-price school meals, District 11 has prepared the following collection of frequently asked questions and answers.

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## **Q: What impact does undocumented or documented immigration or refugee status have on my child receiving free or reduced-price school meals?**

**A:** None. Public school districts that participate in the National School Lunch Program and/or the School Breakfast Program, like **District 11**, are required to process all submitted applications for free or reduced-price school meals, regardless of immigration or refugee status and without discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin. Eligibility is based on criteria outlined in the free and reduced-price school meal application instructions.

## **Q: What does public charge mean?**

**A:** Public charge is used by immigration to decide whether a person can enter the U.S. or get a green card/visa. Within this decision-making process, the totality of a person's circumstances are reviewed including their participation in assistance programs such as SNAP, Medicaid, public housing, cash assistance, etc.

## **Q: If I apply for free or reduced-price school meals, is this considered a public charge?**

**A:** No. Applying for free or reduced-price school meals is not considered an assistance program on the grounds of public charge and will not affect green card or visa status. Additionally, **District 11** does not report meal application information to migrant, immigration or refugee offices.

**Q: Does the Colorado Springs School District 11 free and reduced-price school meal application ask for an immigration, migrant, citizenship or refugee status?**

**A:** No. Immigration, migrant, citizenship or refugee status is not asked for during the application process, and families should continue to apply for free or reduced-price school meals. The application does require the last four numbers of a Social Security number or an indication that there is no Social Security number. Social Security number information is *not* reported to any organization outside of **District 11**.

**Q: Does District 11 ever share students' free or reduced-price school meal information?**

**A:** Free and reduced-price school meal application information may be shared with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund or determine benefits for their programs. Families have the option to decline allowing their information to be shared with local education programs, Medicaid offices and/or State Children's Health Insurance Programs (SCHIP).

**Q: What should I do if I feel like my student or I have been the victim of discrimination or harassment when filling out or submitting a free or reduced-price school meal application?**

**A** School District 11 is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in relation to disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, transgender status, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, religion, ancestry, age, and protected activity. Any harassment/discrimination of students and/or staff, based on the aforementioned protected areas, will not be tolerated and must be brought to the immediate attention of the school principal, D11 administrator/supervisor, or D11 nondiscrimination compliance/grievance coordinator.

**District 11's Nondiscrimination Compliance Coordinator: Natasha Bullard Kaonohi, [natasha.kaonohi@d11.org](mailto:natasha.kaonohi@d11.org), 719-520- 2271, Fax: 719-520-2442**