



#128-21

Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #128-21

DATE: May 14, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Free and Reduced-Price Eligibility Data for the 2020-2021 School Year**

The Virginia Department of Education, Office of School Nutrition Programs (VDOE-SNP), annually collects data from local educational agencies (LEAs) and reports on the number and percentage of enrolled students eligible for free or reduced-price meals in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) for each LEA and participating school. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide notification of a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) waiver to this requirement for the 2020-2021 school year.

Pursuant to the authority in Section 2202(a) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), the USDA cancelled certain administrative data reporting requirements for state agencies and LEAs operating the NSLP. The reporting requirements were waived to facilitate the provision of meals for children and to allow LEAs to reallocate resources to meal service and relevant COVID-19 response activities. The public health emergency also introduced challenges and limitations that prevented state agencies and LEAs from submitting accurate and complete reporting due to the transition to the Summer Food Service Program and alternate instructional models in use.

For these reasons, the [VDOE NSLP Free and Reduced-Price Eligibility Reports](#) will not be published for the 2020-2021 school year. Entities that use the NSLP eligibility data for federal and state reporting or other purposes should refer to individual program regulations for

guidance. The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, [issued a Fact Sheet with guidance for LEAs related to this topic.](#)

For more information

If you have questions, please contact the SNP Regional Specialist assigned to your LEA or Dr. Sandy Curwood, Director of School Nutrition Programs, via email at Sandra.Curwood@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-2074.

JFL/SCC/LAF/cc