

Subject Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Eligibility; Extending the Deadline for Application

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Overview

Minnesota's school districts and charter schools are authorized to collect information on students' eligibility for free and reduced-price meals. This information qualifies a student for school nutrition programs (breakfast and lunch), factors into the determination of federal Title 1 eligibility, and determines each district's general education compensatory revenue.

School districts determine student eligibility by asking students' families to fill out paper eligibility forms. The paper forms are supplemented by a direct certification provided to districts and charter schools by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) which, under a data sharing agreement with the Minnesota Department of Human Services, matches student records with family eligibility for SNAP and MFIP.

For purposes of calculating compensatory revenue, state law requires the district to count eligible students who are enrolled as of October 1 of each year. Under current law, districts have until December 15th of that year to finalize the eligible student count.

This bill extends the date by which districts must report their fall enrollment counts from December 15, 2020, to January 4, 2021.

Section	Description
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1	Free and reduced-price lunch application deadline; Fall 2020 count.
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	Extends the deadline for school districts to finish determining a student's eligibility for free and reduced-price meals for purposes of calculating compensatory revenue for the 2021-2022 school year only, from December 15, 2020, to January 4, 2021.
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