**Agreement for Disclosure of Free and Reduced Price Information**

# PURPOSE AND SCOPE

[ ] and [ ]

**Insert Name of Determining Agency Insert Name of Receiving Agency**

acknowledge and agree that children's free and reduced-price meal and free milk eligibility information obtained under provisions of the National School Lunch Act (42 USC 1751 et seq.) or Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 USC 1771 et seq.) (CNA) and the regulations implementing these Acts is confidential information.

This Agreement is intended to ensure that any information disclosed by the

[ ] to the [ ]

**Insert Name of Determining Agency Insert Name of Receiving Agency**

about children eligible for free and reduced-price meals or free milk will be used only for purposes specified in this Agreement and that the

[ ] and [ ]

**Insert Name of Determining Agency Insert Name of Receiving Agency**

recognize that there are penalties for unauthorized disclosures of this eligibility information.

# AUTHORITY

Section 9(b)(6)(A) of the National School Lunch Act (42 USC 1758(b)(6)(A)) authorizes the limited disclosure of children's free and reduced-price meal or free milk eligibility information to specific programs or individuals, without prior parent/guardian consent. Except that, the parent/guardian must be provided the opportunity to decline to share eligibility information prior to the disclosure for identifying children eligible for benefits under or enrolling children in the State Medicaid (Apple Health) Program and the State children's health insurance program (SCHIP). Additionally, the statute specifies that for any disclosures not authorized by the statute, the consent of children's parents/guardians must be obtained prior to the disclosure.

The requesting agency certifies that it is currently authorized to administer the following program(s) and that the information requested will only be used by the program(s) indicated.

Note: Section 9(b)(6)(A) specifies that certain programs may receive children’s eligibility status only, without parental consent. Parental consent must be obtained to disclose any additional eligibility information. Section 9(b)(6)(D)(ii) specifies that for State Medicaid (Apple Health) or SCHIP, parents must be notified and given an opportunity to elect not to have information disclosed. Social security numbers may only be disclosed if households are given notice of the disclosure and the uses to be made of their social security numbers as required by Sec. 7 of the Privacy Act.

The requesting agency certifies that it is currently authorized to administer the following program(s) and that the information requested will only be used by the program(s) indicated.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Check All****That Apply** | **Program By Category** | **Information Authorized** |
|  | *Medicaid* or the *State Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP),* administered by a state or local agency authorized under titles XIX or XXI of the Social Security Act.**List Title of Program(s):** | All eligibility information, unless parents elect not to have information disclosed. |
|  | *State health program* other than Medicaid/CHIP, administered by a state agency or local education agency.**List Title of Program(s):** | Eligibility status only; consent not required. |
|  | *Federal health program* other than Medicaid/SCHIP.**List Title of Program(s):**  | NO eligibility information, unless parental consent isobtained. |
|  | *Local health program.***List Title of Program(s):** | NO eligibility information, unless parental consent isobtained. |
|  | *Child Nutrition Program* under the National School Lunch Act or Child Nutrition Act.**List Title of Program(s):**  | All eligibility information; consent not required. |
|  | *Federal/State or local means-tested nutrition program* with eligibility standards comparable to the National School Lunch Program.**List Title of Program(s):**  | Eligibility status only; consent not required. |
|  | *Federal education program.***List Title of Program(s):**  | Eligibility status only; consent not required. |
|  | *State education program* administered by a state agency or local education agency.**List Title of Program(s):**  | Eligibility status only; consent not required. |
|  | *Local education program.***List Title of Program(s):**  | NO eligibility information, unless parental consent is obtained. |

# RESPONSIBILITIES

[ ] will**:**

**Insert Name of Determining Agency**

* + When required, secure parent’s/guardian’s consent prior to any disclosure not authorized by the National School Lunch Act or any regulations under that Act, unless prior consent is secured by the receiving agency and made available to the determining agency.
	+ For State Medicaid (Apple Health) and CHIP notify parents/guardians of potential disclosures and provide opportunity for parents/guardians to elect not to have information disclosed;
	+ Disclose eligibility information only to persons directly connected to the administration or enforcement of programs authorized access under the National School Lunch Act or regulations under the Act or to programs or services for which parents/guardians gave consent.

[ ] will**:**

**Insert Name of Receiving Agency**

* + Ensure that only persons who are directly connected with the administration or enforcement of the program and whose job responsibilities require use of the eligibility information will have access to children's eligibility information:

**Specify by name(s) or title(s)**

* + Use children's free and reduced-price eligibility information for the following specific purpose(s):

**(Describe)**

* + Inform all persons that have access to children's free and reduced-price meal eligibility information that the information is confidential, that children's eligibility information must only be used for purposes specified above, and the penalties for unauthorized disclosures.
	+ Protect the confidentiality of children's free and reduced-price meal or free milk eligibility information as follows:
		- **(Specifically describe how the information will be protected from unauthorized uses and further disclosures)**
		- **(Describe the procedures for transferring students' meal eligibility information from the determining agency to the requesting agency/program so as to limit the number of individuals who have access to the information)**

# EFFECTIVE DATES

This agreement shall be effective from to .

**Fill in Date Fill in Date**

# PENALTIES

Any person who publishes, divulges, discloses, or makes known in any manner, or to any extent not authorized by Federal law (Section 9(b)(6)(C) of the National School Lunch Act; 42 USC 1758(b)(6)(C)) or a regulation, any information about a child's eligibility for free and reduced-price meals or free milk shall be fined not more than a $1,000 or imprisonment of not more than 1 year or both.

# SIGNATURES

The parties acknowledge that children's free and reduced-price meal and free milk eligibility information may be used only for the specific purposes stated above; that unauthorized use of free and reduced-price meal and free milk information or further disclosure to other persons or programs is prohibited and a violation of federal law which may result in civil and criminal penalties.

\*Any attachments will become part of this agreement.

**Requesting Agency/Program Administrator** Signature:

Printed Name:

Title:

Date:

Phone:

**Determining Agency/Program Administrator**

Signature:

Printed Name:

Title:

Date:

Phone:

Adapted from: Prototype Agreement from *Eligibility Manual for School Meals*, Appendix C.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the state or local agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, [AD-3027](https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf), found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. **Mail**: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. **Fax**: (202) 690-7442; or
3. **Email**: program.intake@usda.gov.

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