

Determining 2025-2026 Free & Reduced-Price Meal Applications

Where does my reimbursement come from?

Federal FREE (F)
< 130%
Income Eligible

USDA – B \$2.46
 L \$4.69
 ND – B \$0.00
 L \$0.00

Federal REDUCED (R)
130-185%
Income Eligible

USDA – B \$2.16
 L \$4.29
 ND – B \$0.30
 L \$0.40

Federal Denied Old Paid (P)
Not Income Eligible

STATE 225 (E)
185-225%
Income Eligible
Not Counted for Verification

USDA – B \$0.40
 L \$0.53
 ND – B \$2.06
 L \$4.16

PAID (P)
> 225%
Not Federal or State Income Eligible
Not Counted for Verification

USDA – B \$0.40
 L \$0.53
 ND – B \$0.00
 L \$0.00

Categorical FREE (F)
SNAP / TANF / FDPIR Number Provided

Please note that Categorical Free also includes:
 Homeless (McKinney-Vento), Migrant, and State Placed Foster Students

Medicaid numbers on an Application Can Not Be Accepted.
 Medicaid is only allowed by a **DHS-MF** or **DHS-MR** indicator on the Direct Certification List in STARS.

Check ALL Applications against your Direct Certification List in STARS. Write Changed to DC on the application and file in the Not Counted for Verification Folder.

Changed to
Directly Certified (FDC)
Not Counted for Verification

DC SNAP
 STARS "DHS-FS"

DC Medicaid FREE
 STARS "DHS-MF"

DC TANF
 STARS "DHS-AF"

DC Medicaid REDUCED
 STARS "DHS-MR"

NEW STEP

Federal Denied (over federal income guidelines) applications are matched against the STATE 225 guidelines.

- To the applicant who qualifies for meals under 225% of the Poverty Level, they will receive One Breakfast and Lunch per day at No Cost.
 - Snack is not included
- To the district, however, we need to qualify and report students and meals by the different statuses due to varying federal and state reimbursement rates for each status.

Medicaid Free (DHS-MF) and Medicaid Reduced (DHS-MR) have been added to the STARS Direct Certification Notification

- Medicaid can only be indicated by the Direct Certification List and does not allow for application indication.

Transfer your Determination to PowerSchool

Federal Direct Certification (FDC)
 DHS-FS, DHS-AF, DHS-MF
Reduced-DC (RDC)
 DHS-MR
Federal Free - Free (F)
Federal Reduced - Reduced (R)
State Free 200 - Exempt (E)
Full Pay - Paid (P)
(no status) – Not Participating (ex. Homeschool, PK)

(no status)
 Full pay (P)
 Reduced (R)
 Free (F)
 Exempt (E)
 Temporary (T)
 Free-DC (FDC)
 Reduced-DC (RDC)