

DISCLOSURE OF STUDENT'S ELIGIBILITY STATUS
FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Office of School Nutrition of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the Office of Federal Programs acknowledge and agree that children's free and reduced price meal 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.) and the regulations implementing those Acts is confidential information and must be treated accordingly. This Agreement is intended to ensure that any information disclosed by the School Nutrition Programs in North Carolina to the Office of Federal Programs about children eligible for free and reduced price meals will be used only for purposes specified in this Agreement and for no other purpose(s). The Office of School Nutrition and the Office of Federal Programs recognize that there are penalties for unauthorized disclosures of this eligibility information that are enforceable under the law.

II. AUTHORITY

Section 9(b)(C)(iii) of the National School Lunch Act (42 USC 1758(b)(2)(C)(iii) authorizes the limited disclosure of student's confidential free and reduced-price meal eligibility information to specific programs or individuals without prior parent/guardian consent. The parent/guardian must be provided the opportunity to decline to share eligibility information prior to the disclosure of this information for the purposes of identifying student eligible for benefits under or enrolling student in the State Medicaid Program and the State Student's Health Insurance Program. Additionally, the statute specifies that for any disclosures not authorized by the statute, the consent of student's parent/guardians must be obtained prior to the disclosure. Federal or State mandated education programs may have access to student's confidential meal eligibility status for reporting purposes only. Local education initiatives are ineligible to receive this confidential information without prior written consent of the parent/guardian.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

The **Office of School Nutrition** at the NC Department of Public Instruction will:

Ensure that the terms "free and reduced eligibility status" or any other terms related to the National School Lunch Act are not used in the disclosure of student's economic status to the person(s) directly authorized to receive the information. Instead, any disclosure of student's eligibility for meal benefits under the National School Lunch (and subsequent Acts and Regulations) shall be disclosed as follows:

The identified students are Economically Disadvantaged and qualify for supplemental education services under the provisions of the Title I Program

When required, obtain prior written consent from the parent/guardian prior to any disclosure not authorized by the National School Lunch Act or any regulations under that Act;

For the State Medicaid Program and the State Student's Health Insurance Program, notify parents/guardians of potential disclosures and provide an opportunity for parents/guardians to elect not to have information disclosed;

Disclose student's confidential meal eligibility status 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 prior written consent to use the information for a specific purpose; and

Ensure any misuse of the information concerning student's socioeconomic status is reported immediately to the Office of School Nutrition at the NC Department of Public Instruction.

The **Office of Federal Programs**, on behalf of the Title I Program will:

Ensure that only the persons (shown in the attachment) who are directly connected with the administration or enforcement of the **Title I Education Program** and whose job responsibilities require use of the eligibility information will have access to student's confidential meal eligibility status and other pertinent information:

Title 1 Director

(See attached list of names of personnel authorized to receive the confidential information)

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

To calculate poverty percentages of each school in the district to determine Title I eligibility and within-district allocations.

Inform all persons that have access to children's confidential free and reduced-price meal eligibility information of the following:

- (1) The information is confidential
- (2) A student's confidential eligibility information must only be used for purposes specified above
- (3) No mention of the terms of use in conjunction with the National School Lunch Act (i.e. free and reduced) may be used when communicating (print, verbal, electronic or other media) this information; and
- (4) The penalties for unauthorized disclosures
- (5) None of the information obtained from the School Nutrition Program may be downloaded or entered into PowerSchool or any other data management system in the school or district.
- (6) None of the information obtained from the School Nutrition Program may be disclosed to a third party for any purpose; disclosure to a third party constitutes a breach of the MOA and may result in revocation of the district's authorization to receive the data in the future.

Protect the confidentiality of children's meal eligibility information status and/or socioeconomic status as follows:

- **Files with student names/identifiers will not be transmitted electronically;**
- **Files will be locked in the office of the Title I Director when not in use;**
- **Files will not be left unattended at any time for view by any other unauthorized person;**
- **A letter informing authorized recipients of the confidential nature of this data will be provided to all Title I Directors.**

Protect the confidentiality of student's meal eligibility information and/or socioeconomic status during the transfer of information:

Files will be hand delivered to the authorized recipients (Title I Director) and returned in the same manner to the School Nutrition Director or destroyed by shredding or other appropriate means. Updated lists should be made available upon request within 5 business days.

The recipient of this information agrees to protect the confidentiality of student's meal eligibility status and/or socioeconomic status as follows:

The Office of Federal Programs will obtain an electronic report of students qualifying for free or reduced-price meals. The information will be distributed to authorized persons (attachment 1) via a secure website or through hard copy distribution at the PSU. Students will be identified only as economically disadvantaged and will not be identified by their free and reduced-price eligibility status. PSU personnel who have access to student's confidential meal eligibility status (as reflected by their qualification for free and reduced-priced meal benefits) will not release the information in any manner to school staff except as specifically allowed in Part III of this agreement.

The recipient of this information agrees to protect the confidentiality of student's confidential meal eligibility status and/or socioeconomic status during the transfer of information.

The information about economically disadvantaged students will be transferred electronically at the State level. The PSU and Title I Program personnel who have a demonstrated need to know the student's confidential meal eligibility status in order to provide the support services as required under Federal law may access the information. Electronic files will be stored securely and destroyed when they are no longer needed.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATES

This agreement shall be effective from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

V. 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)(2)(C) of the National School Lunch Act; 42 USC 1758(B)(2)(C) or a regulation, any information about a student's confidential eligibility for free or

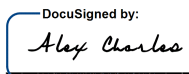
reduced-price meals shall be fined not more than a \$1,000 or imprisonment of not more than 1 year or both. Further, in accordance with the annual agreement between the School Food Authority and the NCDPI and SBE, penalties for disclosure of this information to an unauthorized third party may result in personnel action up to and including dismissal.

VI. SIGNATURES

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

Federal Program Administrator: (Educational Program eligible to receive Student’s Confidential Eligibility Status)

Printed Name: Alex Charles
Title: Senior Director, Office of Federal Programs Telephone: (984) 236-2796

Signature:  _____
DA7B8E06664548D...

Date: 4/11/2025 | 7:35:53 AM EDT

Determining Official: (School Nutrition Administrator)

Printed Name: Rachel Findley
Title: Senior Director, Office of School Nutrition Telephone: (984) 236-2901

Signature:  _____
0D21BD745FB947D...

Date: 4/11/2025 | 8:13:10 AM EDT

* Any attachments will become part of this agreement.

For each person requesting a student’s confidential eligibility status, the following table must be completed and attached to the Memorandum of Agreement.

The **Name of Program** certifies that it is currently authorized to administer the following program(s) and that information requested will only be used by the program(s) indicated:

Check all that apply	Program	Information authorized
	<i>Medicaid or the State children’s health insurance program (SCHIP), administered by a State or local agency authorized under titles XIX or XXI of the Social Security Act. Specify Program:</i>	All eligibility information, unless parents elect not to have information disclosed.
	<i>State health program other than Medicaid/SCHIP, administered by a State agency or local education agency. Specify Program:</i>	Eligibility status only; consent not required.
	<i>Federal health program other than Medicaid/SCHIP Specify Program:</i>	NO eligibility information, unless parental consent is obtained.
	<i>Local health program Specify Program:</i>	NO eligibility information, unless parental consent is obtained.
	<i>Child Nutrition Program under the National School Lunch Act or Child Nutrition Act Specify Program:</i>	All eligibility information; consent not required.
X	<i>Federal/State or local means tested nutrition program with eligibility standards comparable to the National School Lunch Program. Specify Program: Title I Program, Part A</i>	Eligibility status only; consent not required.
	<i>Federal education program Specify Program: Title I, Part A</i>	Eligibility status only; consent not required.
	<i>State education program administered by a State agency or local education agency Specify Program:</i>	Eligibility status only; consent not required.
	<i>Local education program Specify Program:</i>	NO eligibility information, unless parental consent is obtained.

Note: Section 9(b)(2)(C)(iv) 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 0(b)(2)(C)(iv) specifies that for State Medicaid or SCHIP, parents must be notified and given 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.

Alamance-Burlington Schools	Dr	Ilana	Dixon
Alexander County Schools	Mrs	Andrea	Robinette
Alleghany County Schools	Ms.	Melissa	Fitzgerald
Anson County Schools	Dr.	Toni	Warrick
Ashe County Schools	Mrs	Julie	Taylor
Avery County Schools	Ms.	Megan	Pollard
Beaufort County Schools	Mr.	Tremaine	Young
Bertie County Schools	Dr.	Steven	Howard
Bladen County Schools	Mr.	Brendan	McCarthy
Brunswick County Schools	Dr	Karen	Baker
Buncombe County Schools	Ms.	Jeanann	Yates
Asheville City Schools	Mr.	Ernest	Sessoms
Burke County Schools	Dr.	Brett	Wilson
Cabarrus County Schools	Ms.	Amy	Cummings
Kannapolis City Schools	Ms.	Erin	Anderson
Caldwell County Schools	Ms.	Jeni	McNulty
Camden County Schools	Ms.	Monique	Hicks
Carteret County Public Schools	Dr.	Anna	Brooks
Caswell County Schools	Ms.	Alyson	Beavers
Catawba County Schools	Mr.	J. R.	Sigmon
Hickory City Schools	Dr	Timothy	Sims
Newton-Conover City Schools	Mrs	Tammy	Brown
Chatham County Schools	Ms.	Carrie	Little
Cherokee County Schools	Mr.	Thomas	Graham
Edenton/Chowan Schools	Ms.	Sharon	Meads
Clay County Schools	Ms.	Angel	Owens
Cleveland County Schools	Dr.	Jason	Parker
Columbus County Schools	Mr.	Thomas	Howard-McLamb
Whiteville City Schools	Mrs	Katie	McLam
Craven County Schools	Mr.	Jason	Griffin
Cumberland County Schools	Mrs	Maria	Pierce-Ford
Currituck County Schools	Ms.	Christine	Hodges
Dare County Schools	Mrs	Caitlin	Spruill
Davidson County Schools	Mrs	April	Willard
Lexington City Schools	Ms	Stacy	Holden
Thomasville City Schools	Dr	Kelly	Hales
Davie County Schools	Mr.	David	Koontz
Duplin County Schools	Mrs	Janice	Goldsby
Durham Public Schools	Dr	Dietrich	Danner
Edgecombe County Schools	Mrs	Amy	Pearce
Forsyth County Schools	Ms.	Kat	Dimov
Franklin County Schools	Dr	Geoffrey	Hawthorne
Gaston County Schools	Dr	Cynthia	Reynolds

Gates County Schools	Mrs.	Susan	Casper
Graham County Schools	Ms.	Kristy	Cable
Granville County Schools	Ms.	Shelby	Hunt
Greene County Schools	Ms.	Jada	Mumford
Guilford County Schools	Dr.	Melissa	Nixon
Halifax County Schools	Dr	Tyrana	Battle
Roanoke Rapids City Schools	Ms.	Juliana	Thompson
Harnett County Schools	Ms.	Dana	Stephens
Haywood County Schools	Ms.	Charly	Inman
Henderson County Schools	Dr.	Shannon	Marlowe
Hertford County Schools	Ms.	Chanel	Sidbury
Hoke County Schools	Dr	Mary	McLeod
Hyde County Schools	Mrs	Melanie	Shaver
Iredell-Statesville Schools	Mr.	Jonathan	Ribbeck
Mooresville City Schools	Ms.	Jemma	Conley
Jackson County Schools	Ms.	Laura	Dills
Johnston County Schools	Ms.	Faitha	Batten
Jones County Schools	Ms	Janelle	Ehnstrom
Lee County Schools	Mr.	Ricky	Secor
Lenoir County Public Schools	Ms.	Beverly	Kee
Lincoln County Schools	Dr	Tim	Beam
Macon County Schools	Mr.	Mickey	Noe
Madison County Schools	Ms.	Lisa	Gahagan
Martin County Schools	Ms.	Rana	Beach
McDowell County Schools	Mrs	Crystal	Hamby
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	Dr	Elenia	Daniels
Mitchell County Schools	Mr.	Erik	Buchanan
Montgomery County Schools	Mr.	Wade	Auman
Moore County Schools	Dr	Lisa	Scott
Nash County Schools	Ms	Janet	Morris
New Hanover County Schools	Dr.	Trisha	Cook
Northampton County Schools	Mrs	Alexandria	Evans
Onslow County Schools	Mr.	Dwayne	Snowden
Orange County Schools	Ms.	Tonya	Wagner
Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools	Ms	Arrica	DuBose
Pamlico County Schools	Dr	Ervin	Patrick
Pasquotank County Schools	Mrs.	Sandy	Kinzel
Pender County Schools	Ms.	Deandra	Owens
Perquimans County Schools	Mr.	James	Bunch
Person County Schools	Mr.	Joseph	Warren
Pitt County Schools	Ms	Shannon	Cecil
Polk County Schools	Mrs	Jan	Crump
Randolph County Schools	Ms.	Beth	Davis
Asheboro City Schools	Ms.	Mackenzie	Palmer

Richmond County Schools	Dr	Toni	Witherow
Public Schools of Robeson County	Mr.	Philip	Oxendine
Rockingham County Schools	Ms.	Elizabeth	Covell
Rowan-Salisbury Schools	Ms	Jerri	Hunt
Rutherford County Schools	Dr.	Keith	Silver
Sampson County Schools	Dr	Wendy	Cabral
Clinton City Schools	Dr	William	Vann
Scotland County Schools	Ms	Miriam	Davis
Stanly County Schools	Mrs	Nancy	Hatley
Stokes County Schools	Ms.	Rachel	Cain
Surry County Schools	Mrs	LuAnne	Llewellyn
Elkin City Schools	Mrs	Heather	Pardue
Mount Airy City Schools	Ms	Penny	Willard
Swain County Schools	Mr.	Evan	Clapsaddle
Transylvania County Schools	Ms.	Audrey	Reneau
Tyrrell County Schools	Dr.	Andrea	Wright
Union County Public Schools	Ms.	Hema	Lalwani
Vance County Schools	Dr	Jacqueline	Batchelor-Crosson
Wake County Schools	Ms.	Kimberly	Burton
Warren County Schools	Ms.	Stephanie	Brooks
Washington County Schools	Mrs	Julie	Simpson
Watauga County Schools	Dr	Wayne	Eberle
Wayne County Public Schools	Mrs.	Youlonda	Glaspie
Wilkes County Schools	Mrs.	Callie	Grubb
Wilson County Schools	Ms.	Amy	Thornton
Yadkin County Schools	Ms.	Katherine	Whittington
Yancey County Schools	Ms.	Heather	Cox
Weldon City Schools	Ms.	Geneva	Riddick-Faulkner
Dillard Academy	Ms.	Hilda	Hicks