# **Economic Status**

Economically disadvantaged students are students who are eligible for free/reduced meal status. A student can be identified as eligible for free/reduced meal status by

- Direct Certification from DHHS
- Application for Free/Reduced meals
- Alternate Economic Status Form

## **Direct Certification**

- Available in the NEO Nutrition Module to Superintendents and Food Service Directors.
- Highly confidential; access is restricted to only Superintendents and Food Service Directors.
- NEO validates that students who qualify for Direct Certification are indicated on EPS Reports.

## **Free and Reduced Meal Applications**

- Used primarily for Child Nutrition purposes.
- Can also be used to identify student economic status for EPS reporting

### Alternate Economic Status Form Use

- ONLY used for EPS Funding reporting
- Entered into State Synergy by Data Staff in SAUs Nutrition Staff should NOT be using these forms.
- For SY 2023/24 students who qualify as economically disadvantaged <u>via the Alternate Economic Status Form</u> can be entered into State Synergy as either **Reduced or Free** status via Economic Status Uploads or manual entry on the Economic Status screen.
- Retain records at the SAU of students identified using the Alternate Economic Status Form.

These students will be marked within NEO, and this entry point will override data entries uploader from Synergy.

#### Free/Reduced Meal form:

Schools can collect and utilize these forms to mark students as economically disadvantaged IF the student's status is Free or Reduced – The primary use of this form is for nutrition and/or ESEA Rank & Distribution

#### Alternate Economic Status form:

All public school administrative units (SAUs) can collect and utilize this form to mark students as economically disadvantaged IF the student's status is Free or Reduced – This form is ONLY used for EPS funding reporting purposes.

Traditional Meal Operations	Special Provision II BASE YEAR	Special Provision II  NON-BASE YEAR	Community Eligibility Provision
Collect Free/Reduced Meal Applications - used for both School Nutrition and EPS Reporting purposes.	Collect Free/Reduced Meal Applications - used for both School Nutrition and EPS Reporting purposes.	Collect the Alternate Economic Status Form – ONLY for EPS Reporting	Collect the Alternate Economic Status Form – ONLY for EPS Reporting
Also:  Collect the Alternate Economic Status Form – ONLY for EPS Reporting	Also:  Collect the Alternate Economic Status Form – ONLY for EPS Reporting		