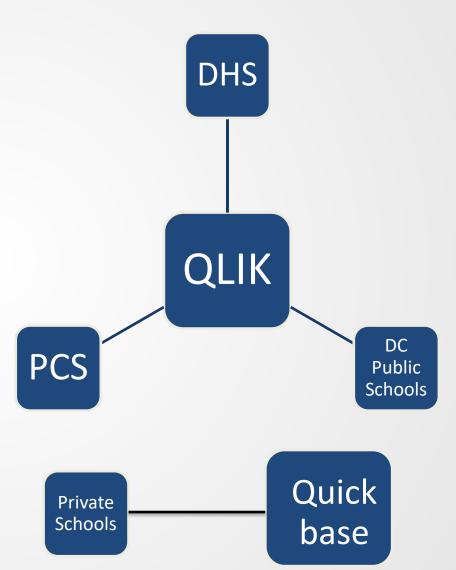


Direct Certification and Free and Reduced Price Meals (FARM) Applications School Year 2023-24

Professional Standards: 3110 – Eligibility 3120 – Direct Certification



- Direct certification allows local education agencies (LEAs) to certify children as eligible for free meal benefits using participant data from other means-tested program, eliminating the need for a Free and Reduced-Price Meal (FARM) application.
- DC Department of Human Services (DHS) Income Maintenance Administration (IMA) identifies individuals between (and including) ages three and 21 that are participating in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Students identified as homeless or foster are also included as directly certified in the QLIK website.





The advantages of a thorough direct certification process as opposed to collecting school meal applications include:

- Families do not need to complete a paper meal application
- Decreases the number of applications schools need to process and verify
- Decreases chance of errors processing applications
- Eligible students can be added throughout the school year through data matches
- A student who is directly certified is free for the entire school year



QLIK takes School Food Authority (SFA) enrollment data and compares it to DHS data on SNAP and TANF participation to directly certify students. SFAs keep enrollment data up to date through the following databases:

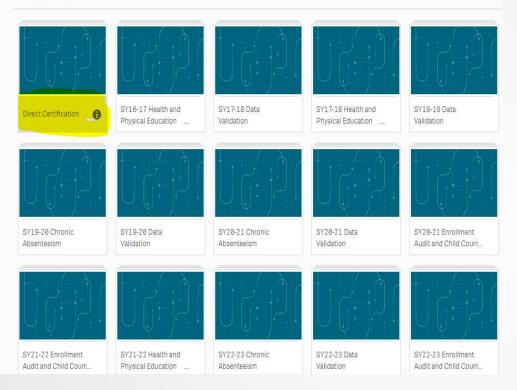
- District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) keeps Aspen updated
- Public charter schools (PCS) need to keep their student information system (SIS) updated
- <u>Private schools</u> must update their student enrollment annually in Quick Base

Accessing Direct Certification Lists - QLIK

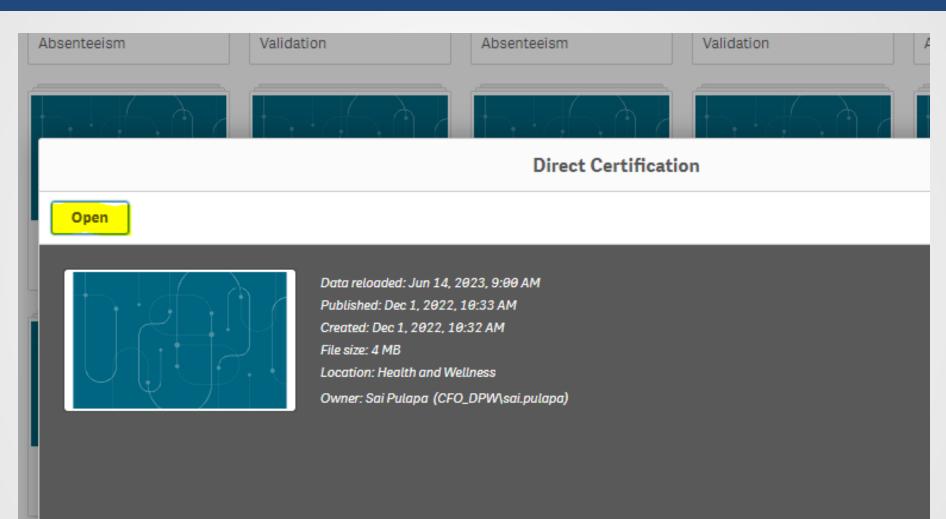
- Direct certification data is available through QLIK
 - Access to Qlik requires that you have an active SLED account
- To access the direct certification list:
 - Go to the <u>Qlik website</u>
 - Select "Direct Certification"
 - Click "Open"
 - Click "SY-XXXX-XX Direct Certification" to select applicable school year.
 - Scroll down to Direct Certification Schools Roster
 - Select your school
 - Download the list into an Excel Spreadsheet



Health and Wellness





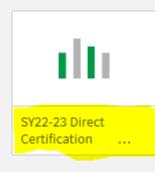




Select Applicable School Year

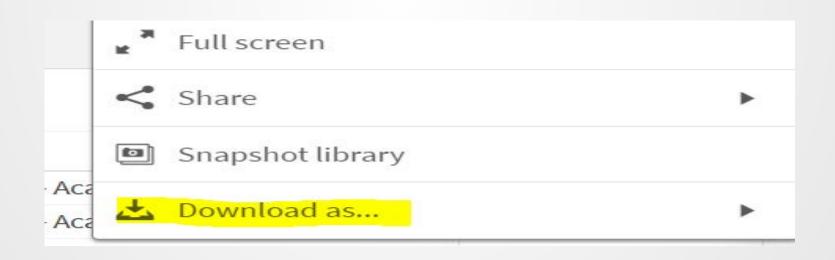


Public sheets (1)





Direct (Certi	fication Schools	Ros	ter									X	
USI	Q	Local ID	Q	LEA Code	Q	LEA Name	Q	School Code	Q	School Name	Q	Sector		Q



Accessing Direct Certification Lists – Quickbase

- Direct certification data is available through Quickbase for private schools.
 - Access to Quickbase requires that you have a Quickbase account.
 - Your Program Specialist will need to submit a request for your school to have access to the Private School Data Collection Application
- To access the direct certification list:
 - Go to the 'Private School Data Collection Dashboard'
 - Scroll down to 'SY XXXX-XX Enrollment Status Report'
 - Select your school name from the list
 - Click "SY-XX-XX Direct Certification" to select applicable school year.



🗰 My Apps	Private School Data Colle OSSE Private		School R	SY2021-22 L	SY2021-22 LEA Contin		SSE Help Desk			
n Home	-	सि Idents Stu	dent Enrollments	Schools	School Admins	Sites	D ocuments	COVID-19 Vaccination	Xttestation Documents	ि OSSE Docs
Private Sc	hool Data Colle	ection > D	Default Dashb	oard						Print this page
Search St	tudents			Report L	inks					
Search St	ludents			Report						
Search by Na	ame, State ID or DOI	В		Council Rep	oort • FARMS D	irect Cert Rep	port	Add Student		

Q ⊮[⊼] ≡

DC Council Report by Students 2022-2023

Resident Status		<u>Non-</u> <u>Resident</u>	<u>Resident</u>	Totals
School Name	Enrollment Status	Number of Students	Number of Students	Number of Students

DC Council Report by Grade Level 2022-2023

School Name	Maximum Record ID# of enrollment - Grade Level	Number of Students
<u>Academia De La Recta Porta Icds Intl.</u> <u>Christian Day School</u>	<u>02</u>	1



SY 2022-23 Enrollment Status Report

Enrollment Status		Enrolled	<u>Exited</u>	Incomplete	Totals
School Name	Related Site (ref) - School Code2	Number of Students	Number of Students	Number of Students	Number of Students
<u>Academia De La</u> <u>Recta Porta Icds Intl.</u> <u>Christian Day School</u>	<u></u>	<u>6</u>	-	-	6
Acton Academy		<u>25</u>	<u>6</u>	_	31
<u>Aidan Montessori</u> <u>School</u>		<u>82</u>	-	-	82
Annunciation Catholic School		100	-	-	100
<u>Archbishop Carroll</u> <u>High School</u>		<u>290</u>	-	1	291
<u>Beauvoir, The</u> National Cathedral Elementary School		<u>281</u>	-	-	281
<u>Bishop John T.</u> Walker School For		<u>82</u>	-	-	82

Direct Certification Requirements

The direct certification process **must** be conducted three times per school year.

- Requirements:
 - Pull first direct certification list at or around the beginning of the school year;
 - Pull second direct certification list three months after the initial effort; and
 - Pull third direct certification list six months after the initial effort.
- Best Practices:
 - Pull a direct certification list routinely to qualify students who become eligible during the school year
 - Save and/or print a copy of the direct certification list each time it is pulled



Students on direct certification list :

Student is considered directly certified and **eligible for free meals** and doesn't need to have an application on file at your school.

Students not on direct certification list:

Required to submit a FARM application to determine meal eligibility. If the school receives an application from a student(s) with a TANF or SNAP number, but the student's name does not appear on the direct certification list, that **student(s) are categorically eligible for free meals.**



Free And Reduced-price Meals Application

imprete one appreadon per nousenoid. P	lease use a pen (i	not a pe	encil).				als		DORE	N TO (Sc SS:	neet/s								
STEP 1 List ALL children, infants, and s	tudents up to and	includir	ng grade	e 12. Atta	ch anoth	er sheet of	paper if y	ou need	d space	for more	e name	s.							
at ALL children in the household. Do not forge	t to list infants, child	dren atte	ending o	ther schoo	ols, childre	en not in so	hool, and c	children	not appl	lying for	benefit	s. This inc	ludes c	hildren no	ot related	d to you ii	n your h	ousehol	1 .
aild's First Name		MI	Child	s Last Na	me							Grade		Foster Child	Migrant	Runaway	Homeless		
													Check all that apply					any o boxe refer Appl Instr	checke f these s, please to the cation cction's 1: Part C).
TEP 2 Do any household members (in	cluding you) parti	cipate i	n: SNAP	TANF, or	FDPIR?														
NO 🕈 Go to STEP 3. Tes 🔶 Wri	te case number here	and proc	ceed to S	TEP 4.		CASENUN	IBER (NOT E	EBT NUM	IBER):							Webs	only one	case numb	r in this
TEP 3 List ALL household members a	ad income for each	memb	er (hefe	re taxes a	nd ded	ctions)											Cray Gale	and the first the	
						How often	eceived?		Child 5	c Assistance, Support,		How often		fying (pro	Pensions, Social Sec	Retirement, unity, SSI,		ow often n	
Name of Adult Household Members (First and Last)		S S S S	Earning	is from Work			ecolued7			Support,					Pensions, Social Sec	Retirement.			
Total Household Members (Children and Adults)		s s s	t Four Nu	mban of Si	other Adul				Child: Alimo \$	Support,					Pension, Social Sec VA Bereft S S S S S Plea	Retirement, unity, SSI,		ov often or imposed	
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Total Household Members (Children and Adults) Child Income Sometimes children in the household earn or re Include the TOTAL income (before taxes and dec STEP 4 Contact information and adult certify (promise) that all information on this a onfirm) the information. I am aware that if I pu	fuctions) received by signature. <u>BE</u> J pplication is true an	S S S S ALL chill CURN CC	t Four Nu mary Wag mber (F/	mban of S p Earner or Applicable) ed in STEP ED FORM e is report children m	other Adul I here. TO YOUF	Summer, Johnson C. Summer Strand that eal benefit	ah storety i	mation is	Child : Allmo S S S S S S S M H Weeky 500 C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C	How often re		How often 	social and Fed		Prenatione, Social Ser. VA Berneth S S S S Plea for li	Reconstruct, sarity, SA, ts, All Other See See a st of inc	pplica	aw often no ferry 3 tends 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	ack
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Free And Reduced-price Meals Application

SOURCES AND EXAMPLES OF INCOME For additional information on income, please refer to the instructions that accompany this application.

	Sources of Income	Examples of Income for Children	
Earnings from Work	Public Assistance/Alimony/ Child Support	Pensions/Retirement/ All other sources of income	- A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages
 Salary, wages, cash bonuses, tips, commissions Net income from self-employment (farm or business) 	Unemployment benefits Workers' compensation Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Cash assistance from State or local	Social Security/Disability (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits) Private Pensions or disability benefits	A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits
If you are in the U.S. Military: Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA, or privatized housing	government Alimony payments Child support payments	Income from trusts or estates Annuities Investment income Earned interest	 A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money
 Allowances) Allowances for off-base housing, food, and clothing 	Veterans benefits Strike benefits	Rental income Regular cash payments from outside household	A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust

OPTIONAL Children's ethnic and racial identities. This information is kept confidential and may be protected by the Privacy Act of 1974.

We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.

Ethnicity (check one): I Hispanic or Latino (A person of Cuban, Mex	ican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish Culture or origin, regardless of race)	Not Hispanic or Latino
Race (check one or more): American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian Black or African American Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	White

Return this completed form to your child's school. *Do not mail, fax, or email completed applications to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

DO NOT FILL OUT For school use only.

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly × 52, Every 2 Weeks × 26, Twice a Month × 24, Monthly × 12. Do not annualize income to determine eligibility unless more than one income frequency is listed.

Total Income	How often?	Household size	Categorical Eligibility	Eligibility Pree Reduced Denied O O O	
Determining Official's Signature	Date	Confirming Official's Signature	Date	Verifying Official's Signature	Date

Use of Information Statement -

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires that we use information from this application to see who qualifies for free or reduced price meals. We can only approve complete forms. We may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them deliver program benefits to your household. Inspectors and law enforcement may also use your information to make sure that program rules are met.

Please be sure to provide the last four numbers of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application. If the adult does not have one, 'Check if no Social Security Number' Applications for a foster child do not need to list a Social Security number. Applications for children in households neceiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) do not need to list a Social Security number. Some children qualify for free meals without an application. Please contact your school to get free meals for a foster child, and children who are homeless, migrant, or runaway.

The contact information below is solely to file a complaint of discrimination

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800(877-833).

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a latter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, belphone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for GVI Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 from or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- *MAIL: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- FAX: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or EMAIL: program.intake@usda.gov

*Do not mail applications to this address, only complaints of discrimination.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Return completed form to your child's school.

Income Eligibility Guidelines

	INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES											
			Effecti	ive from		July 1, 2023	3 to	June 30, 20	24			
	FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES		REDUCED	PRICEMEA				FRE	E MEALS - 1			
HOUSEHOLD					EVERY TWO					EVERY TWO		
SIZE	ANNUAL	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	MONTH	WEEKS	WEEKLY	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	MONTH	WEEKS	WEEKLY	
		CONTIGUOUS										
1	14,580	26,973	,	1,124	1,038		18,954	1,580	790	729		
2	19,720	36,482	3,041	1,521	1,404	702	25,636	2,137	1,069	986	493	
3	24,860	45,991	3,833	1,917	1,769	885	32,318	2,694	1,347	1,243		
4	30,000	55,500	4,625	2,313	2,135	1,068	39,000	3,250	1,625	1,500	750	
5	35,140	65,009	5,418	2,709	2,501	1,251	45,682	3,807	1,904	1,757	879	
6	40,280	74,518	6,210	3,105	2,867	1,434	52,364	4,364	2,182	2,014	1,007	
7	45,420	84,027	7,003	3,502	3,232	1,616	59,046	4,921	2,461	2,271	1,136	
8	50,560	93,536	7,795	3,898	3,598	1,799	65,728	5,478	2,739	2,528	1,264	
For each add'l family member, add	5,140	9,509	793	397	366	183	6,682	557	279	257	129	
ALASKA												
1	18,210	33,689	2,808	1,404	1,296	648	23,673	1,973	987	911	456	
2	24,640	45,584	3,799	1,900	1,754	877	32,032	2,670	1,335	1,232	616	
3	31,070	57,480	4,790	2,395	2,211	1,106	40,391	3,366	1,683	1,554	777	
4	37,500	69,375	5,782	2,891	2,669	1,335	48,750	4,063	2,032	1,875	938	
5	43,930	81,271	6,773	3,387	3,126	1,563	57,109	4,760	2,380	2,197	1,099	
6	50,360	93,166	7,764	3,882	3,584	1,792	65,468	5,456	2,728	2,518	1,259	
7	56,790	105,062	8,756	4,378	4,041	2,021	73,827	6,153	3,077	2,840	1,420	
8	63,220	116,957	9,747	4,874	4,499	2,250	82,186	6,849	3,425	3,161	1,581	
For each add'l family												
member,add	6,430	11,896	992	496	458	229	8,359	697	349	322	161	
				HAW								
1	16,770	31,025	2,586	1,293	1,194	597	21,801	1,817	909	839		
2	22,680	41,958	3,497	1,749	1,614	807	29,484	2,457	1,229	1,134	567	
3	28,590	52,892	4,408	2,204	2,035	1,018	37,167	3,098	1,549	1,430	715	
4	34,500	63,825	5,319	2,660	2,455	1,228	44,850	3,738	1,869	1,725	863	
5	40,410	74,759	6,230	3,115	2,876	1,438	52,533	4,378	2,189	2,021	1,011	
6	46,320	85,692	7,141	3,571	3,296	1,648	60,216	5,018	2,509	2,316	1,158	
7	52,230	96,626	8,053	4,027	3,717	1,859	67,899	5,659	2,830	2,612	1,306	
8	58,140	107,559	8,964	4,482	4,137	2,069	75,582	6,299	3,150	2,907	1,454	
For each add'l family												
member,add	5,910	10,934	912	456	421	211	7,683	641	321	296	148	



Determining Eligibility on FARM Applications

- Ensure the application is filled out completely and signed by the adult household member
- If Step 2 has a case number:
 - o Skip Step 3
 - Ensure Step 4 is completed
 - Students are Categorically Eligible
 - Proceed to the back of the application and select 'Categorically Eligible'.
 - Sign your name in the Determining Official's Signature box and date
- If Step 2 is blank, continue to Step 3 on the application

Determining Eligibility

- If a household reports income sources at more than one frequency, annualize all income.
 - Annual income conversions:
 - Weekly x 52
 - Every two weeks x 26
 - Twice a month x 24
 - Monthly x 12
- Compare the income or the sum of the incomes to the published Income Eligibility Guidelines for the appropriate frequency and household size to make the eligibility determination
- Report income findings on the bottom of page two
- Select income frequency
- Report household size



- Using the determination that was made fill in the proper circle in the eligibility box
- Sign your name in the Determining Official's Signature box and date
- Confirming Official shall review, sign, and date when a second review of applications is required, and for verification
- Best Practice:
 - While a second review of applications is only required in specific circumstances and for verification, OSSE encourages a second review of all application determinations at all times.



Eligibility determinations are valid for the entire school year, regardless of how eligibility is determined.

- SFAs must carry over the eligibility status from the previous school year for up to 30 operating days or until a new eligibility determination is made, whichever comes first
- FARM applications cannot be completed and signed before July 1 of the effective school year. Annually, Income Eligibility Guidelines are effective from July 1 to June 30 of the current school year
- Sponsors that make changes to the FARM application, frequently asked questions (FAQ) document, or use a different application format must submit applications and documents to OSSE for approval every year



	Carryover Policy for the Schools Meal Pr	ograms
	Within an LEA	Between LEAs
Standard Counting and Claiming School → Standard Counting and Claiming School	Carryover is mandatory , whether a child is continuing in the same school or will attend a different school within the LEA. The new school must carry over the child's eligibility status for up to 30 operating days or until a new eligibility determination is made, whichever comes first.	Receiving schools are encouraged to use the former LEA's eligiblity determination for up to 30 operating days or until a new eligibility determination is made, whichever comes first. The new school may accept the former school's eligibility determination during the carryover period without incurrring liability for the accuracy of the determination.
Provision School → Standard Counting and Claiming School	OSSE permits children moving within an LEA to receive free meals for up to 30 operating days or until a new eligibility determination is made, whichever comes first.	OSSE permits children moving betweeen LEAs to receive free meals for up to 30 operating days or until a new eligibility determinations is made, whichever comes first.



	Transfer Policy for the School Meal Pro	grams
	Within an LEA	Between LEAs
	Eligibility status must transfer with the child when a child moves to a new school within an LEA.	Receiving schools are encouraged but not required to accept the eligibility determination from the child's former district. The receiving school may accept the eligibility determination without incurring liability for the accuracy of the determination.
Provision School → Standard Counting and Claiming School	Children transferring from a Provision school must receive free meals for up to 10 days or until a new eligibility determination is made, whichever comes first. OSSE permits children transferring from Provision schools to receive free meals for up to 30 days. Free meals served under these circumstances may be claimed at the Federal free rate.	Schools must provide children transferring from Provision schools free meals for up to 10 operating days or until a new eligibility determination is made, whichever comes first. OSSE permits transfer students to receive free meals for up to 30 days. Free meals served under these circumstances



- OSSE Website
- FAQ Letter for Parents
- How to Fill Out the FARM App
- FARM Application Instructions
- FARM Application Fact Sheet
- Eligibility Manual for School Meals



FIND US

ADDRESS: 1050 First St. NE. Washington, DC 20002

POC: Kendra Roche Program Specialist Kendra.roche@dc.gov Ed Kwitowski Program Specialist Edward.Kwitowski@dc.gov Lazette Wells Compliance Manager Lazette.wells@dc.gov

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