

Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application and Immigrant and Refugee Status – Questions and Answers

Dear **Adams 12 Five Star Schools** families:

To clarify questions related to immigration and refugee status when applying for free or reduced price school meals, **Adams 12 Five Star Schools** has prepared the following collection of frequently asked questions and answers.

Q: What impact does undocumented, or documented, immigration or refugee status, have on my child receiving free or reduced price school meals?

A: None. Public school districts that participate in the National School Lunch Program and/or the School Breakfast Program, like **Adams 12 Five Star Schools**, are required to process all submitted applications for free or reduced price school meals, regardless of immigration or refugee status and without discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin. Eligibility is based on criteria outlined in the free and reduced price school meal application instructions.

Q: Does the Adams 12 Five Star Schools free and reduced price school meal application ask for an immigration or refugee status?

A: No. Immigration or refugee status is not required to be provided during the application process, and families should continue to apply for free or reduced price school meals.

Q: Does the Adams 12 Five Star Schools free and reduced price school meal application ask for a social security number?

A. The application does require the last four numbers of a Social Security number or indication that there is no Social Security number. However, Social Security number information is **not** reported to any organization outside of **Adams 12 Five Star Schools**.

Q: Does Adams 12 Five Star Schools ever share students' free or reduced price school meal information?

A. All applications are processed and retained with Nutrition Services until audited. Only during spot audits is a pre-determined percentage of free and reduced school meal applications shared with Federal and State Child Nutrition Programs. These audits review a random sampling of applications only to ensure Adams 12 Five Star Schools is following the proper procedures when approving free and reduced meal applications. Aside from spot audits, general application information may be shared with other education, health and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund or determine benefits for their programs. Families have the option to decline

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allowing their information to be shared with local education programs, Medicaid offices and/or State Children's Health Insurance Programs (SCHIP).

Q: What should I do if I feel like my student or I have been the victim of discrimination or harassment when filling out or submitting a free or reduced price school meal application?

A: If you believe that discrimination was a factor in an incident or action, you have the right to file a complaint. For questions or to file a complaint please contact Lisa Hart at (720) 972-6140.

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