

# Economic Status

Economically disadvantaged students, for the purpose of EPS funding, 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

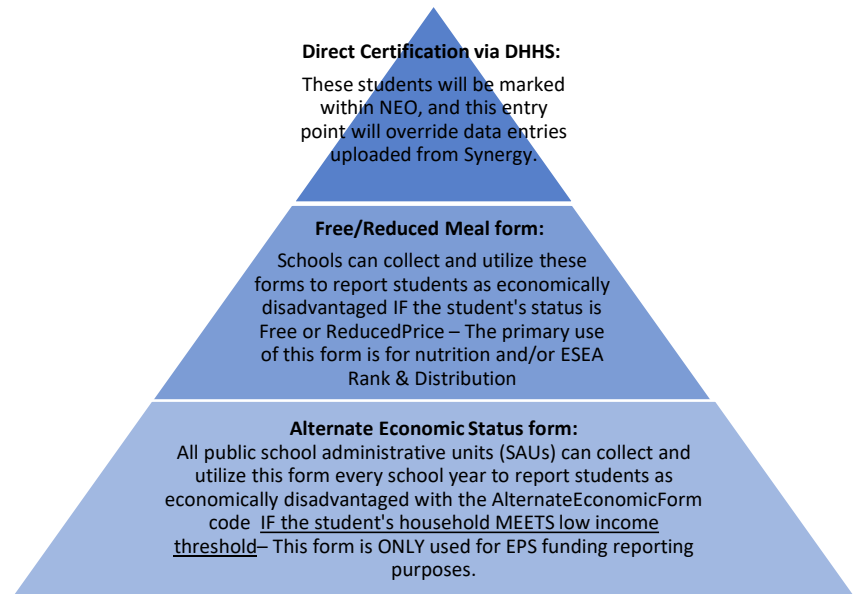
- Available in the NEO Nutrition Module to Superintendents and Food Service Directors.
- Highly confidential; access is restricted to only Superintendents and Food Service Directors.
- NEO validates that students who qualify for Direct Certification are indicated on EPS Reports – data entry by SAUs is not required for students on Direct Certification.

## Free and Reduced Meal Applications

- Used primarily for Child Nutrition purposes.
- Can also be used to identify student economic status for EPS reporting
- Report students based on income qualifications; FullPrice, ReducedPrice, or Free

## Alternate Economic Status Form Use

- **ONLY used for EPS Funding reporting**
- Reported by Data Staff in SAUs – Nutrition Staff should NOT be using these forms.
- Students who **MEET low household income threshold** via the **Alternate Economic Status Form** can be reported with **AlternateEconomicForm** to indicate economic disadvantage.
- If a student **does NOT meet** low household income threshold, report **FullPrice**
- Retain records at the SAU of students identified using the Alternate Economic Status Form.



**Recommended form distribution for different school lunch programs:**

**Note:** EPS economic status must be collected ANNUALLY regardless of nutrition program participation type.

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.  <b>Also:</b>  Collect the Alternate Economic Status Form – <b>ONLY for EPS Reporting</b>	Collect Free/Reduced Meal Applications - used for both School Nutrition and EPS Reporting purposes.  <b>Also:</b>  Collect the Alternate Economic Status Form – <b>ONLY for EPS Reporting</b>	Collect the Alternate Economic Status Form – <b>ONLY for EPS Reporting</b>	Collect the Alternate Economic Status Form – <b>ONLY for EPS Reporting</b>

\*If both the Free/Reduced Meal Application AND the Alternate Economic Status Form are returned and completed by the same student, the data on the Free/Reduced Meal Application would be reported.

**Reporting Guidance when both forms are completed by families:**

Free/Reduced Meal Application	Alternate Economic Status	Report economic status as
Student <b>QUALIFIES</b> for free or reduced lunch status	Student <b>MEETS</b> lower income household criteria	Free or Reduced Price (depending on student's qualification)
Student <b>does NOT qualify</b> for free or reduced lunch status	Student <b>does NOT meet</b> lower income household criteria	Full Price
Student <b>QUALIFIES</b> for free or reduced lunch status	Student <b>does NOT meet</b> lower income household criteria	Free or Reduced Price (depending on student's qualification)
Student <b>does NOT qualify</b> for free or reduced lunch status	Student <b>MEETS</b> lower income household criteria	Full Price
<b>Not returned or not distributed to students.</b>	Student <b>MEETS</b> lower income household criteria	Alternate Economic Form
<b>Not returned or not distributed to students.</b>	Student <b>does NOT meet</b> lower income household criteria	Full Price