

The Sharing of School Meal Eligibility Information

Get the answers you need!



Dear **Lewis-Palmer School District 38** families:

To clarify questions related to the sharing of your information when applying for free or reduced-price school meals, **Lewis-Palmer School District 38** 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 Lewis-Palmer School District 38, 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: What does public charge mean?

A: Public charge is used by immigration to decide whether a person can enter the U.S. or get a green card/visa. Within this decision making process, the totality of a person's circumstances are reviewed including their participation in assistance programs such as SNAP, Medicaid, public housing, cash assistance, etc.

Q: If I apply for free or reduced-price school meals, is this considered a public charge?

A: No. Applying for free or reduced-price school meals is not considered an assistance program on the grounds of public charge and will not affect green card or visa status. Additionally, Lewis-Palmer School District 38 does not report meal application information to migrant, immigration or refugee offices.

Q: Does Lewis-Palmer School District 38 free and reduced-price school meal application ask for an immigration, migrant, citizenship or refugee status?

A: No. Immigration, migrant, citizenship or refugee status is not asked for during the application process, and families should continue to apply for free or reduced-price school meals. The application does require the last four numbers of a Social Security number or an indication that there is no Social Security number. Social Security number information is *not* reported to any organization outside of Lewis-Palmer School District 38.

Q: Does Lewis-Palmer School District 38 ever share students' free or reduced-price school meal information?

A: Free and reduced-price school meal application information may be shared with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund or determine benefits for their programs. Families have the option to decline 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: You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Ms. Stacey Baker, Nutritional Services Supervisor, Lewis-Palmer School District 38, PO Box 40, Monument, CO 80132; 719-488-4726 or email SBaker@lewispalmer.org.

Policy AC: Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity is posted on the D38 website at www.lewispalmer.org/policies. Simply click on the appropriate links to access the full language of the policy.

Any person alleging discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), age, or disability has a right to file a complaint within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory action. All civil rights complaints within the Lewis-Palmer School District 38 Food and Nutrition Services Department should be directed to Stacey Baker, Supervisor. Ms. Baker can be reached via phone at 719-488-4726 or by email at SBaker@lewispalmer.org. Complaints can be submitted verbally, in writing, or anonymously.

The Civil Rights Complaint of Discrimination form can be accessed via the Nutrition Services Department webpage at www.lewispalmer.org/nutritionalservices. Click on "Resources (Links and Documents)" in the left side menu to access the form. The Lewis-Palmer School District 38 Food and Nutrition Services Department will obtain all necessary complaint information and process the complaint within 90 days. The complaint will be forwarded to United States Department of Agriculture Office of Civil Rights.