Economically Disadvantaged Determination FAQs

Office of Accountability, Oklahoma State Department of Education

The new Accountability system requires the Economically Disadvantaged status of a student for identification purposes. Below, we address common questions and issues to support a review of your student data.

Important Terms (terminology may vary by Student Information System)

- Lunch Eligibility Determination-A student's **individual eligibility** for a free or reduced lunch
- Free/Reduced-The **status** for how a student will pay or not pay for a meal

How is Economic Disadvantaged status determined for accountability?

The Office of Accountability uses the EconomicDisadvantage element in the Student Personal object in the Wave to determine if a student has been identified as economically disadvantaged. This field is often prepopulated by your local SIS based on the Lunch Eligibility Determination element. This field will only be marked "yes" if the student is individually eligible for free or reduced lunch services.

What is the difference between Free/Reduced and Lunch Eligibility Determination?

The Free/Reduced field indicates if a student is receiving a free or reduced lunch, not their eligibility. A student could be eligible for free lunch, but refuse it, and thus not receive the service. Additionally, a student could attend a community eligible school and receive free lunch, even though individually the student would not qualify.

What if my site is community eligible?

Community eligibility is reflected in the Free/Reduced status of a student, not the Lunch Eligibility Determination. Even if your site is community eligible, each student will have an individual determination (Lunch Eligibility Determination) which will identify their eligibility had they not been at a community eligible site. **Note that even if you are community eligible, it is possible that some of your students would not be identified as Economically Disadvantaged as they are not individually eligible for free or reduced lunch.**

How can I check if my information is sending correctly?

You can view the current eligibility data in the Wave's portal under the myData student tab. This information also can be reviewed during the Oct.1 Report and the Demographic Overlay Report.

When will I have the opportunity to review/certify the status of my students?

In April/May 2018, you will have the opportunity to review the status of your students through the demographic overlay report. The demographic overlay will serve as the certified demographic data for all students to be used in Accountability. Please review the data sent by your SIS to the Wave prior to certifying the demographic overlay. If your students are not correctly populated, please contact your SIS vendor to identify how your local codes are being translated to the Wave.

Where can I get more help?

The Office of Accountability and Student Information are here to assist you. In many cases, discrepancies in Economically Disadvantaged status will need to be corrected by your SIS vendor through their mapping to the Wave. As each district has a unique vendor and local eligibility codes, OSDE is here to assist in what should be received, but we are unable to edit or view your local system. Please communicate with your SIS vendor to ensure the appropriate information is being collected and accurately translated to the Wave. OSDE has communicated these requirements to SIS vendors so they are prepared to assist.

Helpful Contacts: Office of Student Information (405) 521-3020
Office of Accountability (405) 522-5169