



School Nutrition Program At-A-Glance

Topic: Overview of Direct Certification with Medicaid Data (DC-M)

Direct Certification with Medicaid Data (DC-M) allows states to directly certify students for federal free and reduced-price meals using Medicaid data.

Requirements:

- ✓ DC-M should be accessed on a monthly basis as a best practice.
- ✓ Students directly-certified with DC-M can be **accessed** through the [Child Nutrition Program Direct Certification website](#) Consolidated Collection.
 - Select Student Collections and then Medicaid Demonstration Project
- ✓ Students on the DC-M list are eligible for either free meals or reduced-price meals.
- ✓ Eligibility for DC-M is indicated in two columns
 - DC-M Free – Student is eligible for free meals
 - DC-M Reduced – Student is eligible for reduced-price meals
- ✓ Eligibility established with DC-M may be extended to all students in the family (economic unit).
 - Student certified for free meals = free meal benefit extended.
 - Student certified for reduced-price meals = reduced-price benefit extended.
- ✓ DC-M certified households must be:
 - Notified of meal eligibility and that no application is required.
 - Households certified for reduced-price must be offered the opportunity to apply for free meals.
 - ODE recommends including the price of the meals in the notification letter. Remember, in Oregon Public Schools the state pays the reduced-price cost.
- ✓ Import data into the point of service meal counting system or manually enter.
- ✓ DC-M certified students are not subject to verification.
- ✓ Students certified for free or reduced-price meals with any other method must not be negatively impacted by DC-M.

DC-M and Community Eligibility Provision:

- DC-M Free = contributes toward CEP Identified Student Percentage (ISP)
- DC-M Reduced = **do not include in ISP**

Access More DC-M Resources:

- [DC-M Introduction Webinar](#)
- [DC-M Self Study Guide](#)
- [DC-M Template Household Letters](#)