

SFA/School District: _____

LEA #: _____

**School Food Authority Election to Use Date Flexibility in Free and Reduced Price Meal
Eligibility Determination
2019-2020 Policy Statement**

The School Food Authority (SFA) will or will not use Free and Reduced Price Date Flexibility when determining eligibility.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) School Policy (SP) memo SP11-2014 clarifies the flexibility available to SFA officials for establishing the effective date of eligibility for children certified for free and reduced priced meals. The SFA will ensure that all Free and Reduced Price Meal Applications are processed and determined within ten (10) operating days of receipt of the application, as required by federal regulation. For SFAs using this flexibility the date of determination of the new eligibility status will be the date the application was submitted to the SFA.

The SFA agrees to:

- Have a procedure is in place for submitted applications.
- Refund any money paid (including debt forgiveness) before eligibility determination.
- Ensure Daily Records reflect accurate student eligibility and support the claim for reimbursement.
- Ensure eligibility determinations are updated in eSchool.

This flexibility would assist low income children by allowing them to access free or reduced price school meals during the eligibility determination period. It could also assist LEAs that are experiencing challenges with unpaid debt.

By signing below the Child Nutrition Director and School District Superintendent attest that the SFA has a procedure in place to document the date of submission of household Free and Reduced Price Meal Applications.

Superintendent Signature

Date

Child Nutrition Director Signature

Date