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Comments, Questions and Answers from the Q&A Round Table Discussion FY2021-2022 Economically Disadvantaged Data Collection Impacting FY2022-2023 Federal Programs Allocations Webinar on 9/21/2021 Presented by Lisa Pofelski-Rosa – Special Education Financial Specialist, Principal, and Alexandra McCann, Federal Programs Financial Specialist, Principal

A link to the recorded webinar can be found at: https://youtu.be/7kOWUhf_2Qk

A link to the slide presentation can be found at: <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/federal-programs/files/shared/training/Round-Table-Data-Collection-2022-2023-Webinar.pptx>

A link to the Federal Fact Sheet can be found at: [U.S. Department of Education Fact Sheet on USDA's nationwide waivers](#)

Q1: Can you please supply a list of the regional Migrant Education liaison contact information.

A1: See attachment to webinar response, and posted with the recording.

Q2: In our regional climate, some parents will not participate, and may protest at our school board meetings, therefore surveys will not work.

A2: Survey participation is unknown, but can be developed and as a “school funding survey.”

Q3: Did I hear that there’s an option to use 2019-2020 data?

A3: There is an option to use the “best available NSLP data, which may be from SY 2019-2020.” See link above.

Q4: In the past, we have seen that some of the income survey data is not accurate, or truthful?

A4: We have to trust that parents complete the form accurately.

Q5: There is concern that Direct Certification data is not capturing all the families that are economically disadvantaged. We have many of families that will apply for Free & Reduced but will not apply for SNAP.

A5: The direct certification data has a 1.6 CEP multiplier to help capture some of these families.

Q6: If a district elects to use ‘19-20 data instead of an income survey, what is their option for the year after next if free lunches remain? Are they stuck using out of date information if an income survey is not viable?

A6: There is a chance that the free and reduced lunch application data may not be available going forward, or at least for another year. We can’t keep using the 2019-2020 data. This is why we are looking for another data source.

Q7: There is a dilemma of rural districts with high mobility like Minidoka and Cassia. These families could be harder to capture.

A7: Income survey data would be a capture of data at or by a certain point in time. It would not capture all families. Working closely with your Homeless Liaisons, and Migrant Education programs is another resource to improve identifying students.

Q8: Did you say that Medicaid numbers might be an option? Could this be done in conjunction with a survey and direct cert?

A8: Medicaid numbers are an allowable data set. The SDE does not have access to the Medicaid data. Medicaid is not a qualifier for Direct Certification. Only SNAP, TANF, Homeless, Foster, and Migrant are included in DC numbers.

Q9: Surveys will not work for us. Families will not disclose anything they do not have to. If they are already getting a free lunch, why would they? They do not understand the other pieces that are tied to NSLP numbers.

A9: The survey would be an *effort* to capture the household economic data for school funding.

Q10: Kansas usually has a good method. Can we see what Kansas is doing?

A10: Kansas developed a [fact sheet](#), [a survey](#), and a [letter to parents](#). The letter states, "Even though all children will be able to eat free during the 2021-22 school year, the Household Economic Survey (HES) generates additional funding for our local educational programs." The letter is sent home with students, with the survey.

Q11: We're asking for a choice to use our 19/20 data, direct cert, or an income survey based on our district date, climate and culture.

A11: The SDE heard from the U.S. Department of Education on September 8th about additional information forthcoming, and is awaiting final guidance; we will take all available options into consideration.

Q12: Is there a link to the SDE survey template?

A12: An SDE survey template has not been fully developed. A form used currently to collect similar data for charter schools can be found at: <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/federal-programs/funding/files/fiscal/eco-dis/2022-2023-Income-Survey-Economically-Disadvantaged-Students.docx>

Q13: How would districts that currently use CEP determine percentages for title? Would they have to go back to a form being filled out? Would it be a combination of the two forms that some of us currently use?

A13: CEP is driven by Direct Certification, and the 1.6 factor. CEP schools may not have been utilizing a Free and Reduced Lunch application, but could now use an income survey to determine the economically disadvantaged count if that becomes an option for the district, in lieu of the Direct Certification data.

Q14: I don't want to step on toes of those districts that would benefit from Direct Cert, but it sounds like people would prefer to use 19-20 data since we're in the middle of the year, then spend the rest of the year to figure out a plan moving forward so people were prepared at registration time next year.

A14: New guidance from U.S. Education Dept should be out soon, and we hope to make a final decision.

Q15: I am concerned that mixing years and data sets may duplicate counts. For example, in 19/20 students were counted in building A (which you would use) and then they may show up in direct cert in 21/22. Could you use this year's enrollment and 19/20's percentage of free and reduced? Added in with the direct cert for this year.

A15: We cannot use this year's enrollment with a 2019-20 low income percentage, or number, since that percentage or number is against 2019-20 enrollment.

Q16: We have used the survey forms in the past for our charter schools and private schools in the past and they do not yield accurate data.

A16: We have to trust that parents complete the form accurately.

Q17: Any idea if lunch will be free for all again next year? If not, seems like it would solve itself by going back to old way.

A17: We do not know if the waivers for free lunches will continue past the SY2021-2022.

Q18: Using 19/20 assures schools and LEAs can operate as is which we know we're making work at this time.

A:18: The ISDE is trying to determine the best solution and outcomes.

Q19: We can reposition a survey, if free lunch is going to continue. When will that be known? What will be the requirements from USDA going forward? Do they not use census data? How does that compare to our percentages for the federal allocations for Title and IDEA?

A19: We don't have any additional information on if USDA waivers for free meals will continue. We do not know what data sets USDA uses and how that compares to census poverty used for allocation calculations.

Q20: Do we need to commit to one system or the other before receiving results on our income surveys? We are concerned that our entire district would be at risk of losing out on a large amount of funding if we used the Direct Certification method.

A20: The SDE will determine the options, and the timing of the selection of the process.

Q21: We don't have all LEAs present and what works for some may not fit others so if we could do a poll for all 3 choices and then give options to LEAs that'd be great in supporting kids. Maybe a rank and serve option for all 3. Then too, 2 choices for LEAs to choose.

A21: We are waiting for U.S. Education Dept. guidance that is pending, and will make final determinations based on any additional or updated options available.

Q22: There is no incentive for families to complete the survey and they do not want to provide it. USDA prohibits distributing their Free & Reduced form, and we would be required to use a separate Survey form.

A:23: An income survey with a pitch to families on how it impacts school funding would be an idea. We cannot use the standard Free & Reduced lunch application; a separate income survey would need to be created and distributed.

Q24: Can we use Title 1A funds to pay staff to collect/distribute the new income survey?

A:24: Yes, you can use Title 1A funds to pay staff for the new income survey collection process. Some LEAs may not have extra Title 1A dollars to spare.