

### C. Public (Media) Release (7CFR 245.5(a))

1. Near the beginning of each school year, the public must be notified that the NSLP, SBP, and/or SMP are available in the school or school district. This notice must include the eligibility criteria for free and reduced-price meals and/or free milk. It must be provided to the local news media, the unemployment office, and any major employers who are contemplating large layoffs in the attendance area of the school.

2. The public release must also include:

a. The public release must contain the same information supplied in the Letter to Household, except that the public release must contain both the free and reduced-price IEGs. However, a public release that only refers to the SMP should not contain the reduced-price IEGs. NOTE: Provision school public release is not required to include free/reduced-price IEG.

b. When known to the LEA, households will be notified of their children's eligibility for free meals if they are members of households receiving assistance from: • The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or, as applicable, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). • The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) if the state program meets the statutory requirements. • No application is required for free meal benefits for these households. • All children in these households are eligible for free meal benefits. If any children were not listed on the eligibility notice, the household should contact the LEA or school to have free meal benefits extended to those children

c. When known to the LEA, households will be notified of any child's eligibility for free meals if the individual child is Other Source Categorically Eligible because the child is categorized as: • Homeless, migrant, or runaway as defined by law. • Enrolled in an eligible Head Start or Even Start. • For any child not listed on the eligibility notice, the households should contact the LEA or school about any child also eligible under one of these programs or should submit an income application for other children. • If households/children receiving benefits under Assistance Programs or other source programs are not notified by the school of their free meal benefits, the parent/guardian should contact his/her school. • Households notified of their children's eligibility must contact the LEA or school if they choose to decline the free meal benefits. 3. Copies of the public release must be made available upon request to any interested person.