

**Dear LEAs - IMPORTANT POVERTY DATA UPDATE – please read**

I have some very important news to share regarding your allocations and the use of poverty data. To this point, we have been instructing those of you who are using the seamless summer meal option to use the Income Eligibility Form to gather poverty data in order to support your allocation. However, we have recently received news from USED that the option to use older year poverty data will be EXTENDED into FY23 (School Year 2022-23).

To the extent that poverty data from SY 2021-22 is not available, data from SY 2020-21 or SY 2019-20 may be used. You can find the [full memo here](#).

**How does this decision affect your LEA allocation?**

We are building out the allocation calculation to select the best year's data for your LEA, so you don't need to do anything. The system will automatically select the year that is the most advantageous to you and your allocation will be calculated upon that number.

**How does this affect equitable services for private schools?**

Private schools have the same option, to use previous year low-income data, whichever is more advantageous. Private schools do not have to use the same year or poverty criteria as their corresponding LEA.

**How does this affect the School Eligibility Page in the consolidated application?**

You will select which year's poverty data you will be using (you cannot mix and match) and enter it on the School Eligibility Page. You will then enter the current year (SY 2021-22) enrollment data.

This is positive news for us this year as we knew our poverty data was not complete. Thank you for your patience and your efforts to collect poverty information via the Income Eligibility Form.

Moving forward, and as you map out the next school year, it is critical that you plan far ahead on how to best collect poverty. Therefore, please put in place a method to use the Income Eligibility Form to collect poverty data to support your consolidated application funding in the future.

- Angie Madsen – Deputy Associate Superintendent – Educator and School Excellence