ENSURING ACCESS TO SCHOOL MEALS

Debra Utting, Program Analyst
USDA's Food and Nutrition Service

August 10, 2016

AGENDA

- **Introduction and Ensuring Access Overview:** Debra Utting, FNS School Programs Branch
- **Strengthening the Direct Certification Process:** Joe Templin, Team lead, FNS Direct Certification Training and Technical Assistance Team
- **Expanding Direct Certification Beyond SNAP:** Eva Shepherd, Senior Data Analyst, Nebraska Department of Education Nutrition Services
- **Direct Certification and Direct Verification with Medicaid:** Lisa Church, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services:
- **Access to Households with Limited English Proficiency:** MaryAnn Martinez, Director of Child Nutrition, IDEA Public Schools, Texas
- Q & A's

Submit Your Success Stories!

- Please share YOUR best practices and questions using the **"Comment"** feature on the bottom left side of your screen

Thank you for participating!

Ensuring Access to Free & Reduced Price School Meals for Low-Income Students

- SP 43-2016
- Issued June 30, 2016
- Outlines steps State agencies, LEAs, and schools can take to improve access to the school meal programs

Overview of Topics

- Simplify the application process
- Provide application assistance
- Improve direct certification
- Improve verification

Benefits of Improving Access

- Secures the financial stability of the school meal programs
- Reduces the risk of unpaid meal charges
- Prevents hunger among low-income children

Simplify the Application Process

USDA Prototype Application

- Updated in 2016
- Tested with focus groups, including low-income and Spanish-speaking households
- Meets all statutory and regulatory requirements

Application Outreach

- Summer outreach
- School year outreach
- Community outreach

End of Carryover

- Children "carryover" their eligibility status for up to 30 days into the next school year
- Schools should clarify for families that the carryover period will end after 30 days

Reaching Transfer Students

- **In-district transfers:** student eligibility status must transfer with the student
- **Out-of-district transfers:** new schools are encouraged to accept the student's eligibility determination
- The new district may accept the eligibility determination without incurring liability for the accuracy of the initial determination

Mid-Year Eligibility Determinations

- Families may submit an application at any point during the school year
- Once determined F&RP eligible, a student remains F&RP eligible for the duration of the school year

Provide Application Assistance

When & Where to Provide Assistance

- **During school events:** "back-to-school" night, school conferences, etc.
- **Through community partners:** advocacy groups, social service agencies, etc.

Language Assistance

- **Identify LEP Persons:** Share USDA's "I Speak" document
- **Provide Translations:** For SY 2016-2017, 49 translations will be available on the FNS Translated Applications webpage
- **Develop Partnerships:** Partner with community organizations to deliver accurate, cost-effective language services

Simplify the Application Process

- Pre-populate applications, when possible
- Inform Assistance Program households that they only need to provide a case number
- Inform households that all school-aged children in eligible households may receive benefits, regardless of immigration status
- Clarify that only one application is needed per household

When Eligible Families Don't Apply

- School officials may complete an application for a child known to be eligible for meal benefits if the child's parent or guardian has not applied
- Intended for limited use in individual situations

Improve Direct Certification

Expand Data Matching

- State agencies must conduct direct certification with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- State agencies are encouraged to expand match engines to include:
  - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
  - Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
  - Categorically Eligible Children (homeless, runaway, migrant, and foster children)

Improve Verification

Use Direct Verification

- Use Assistance Program records to verify as much of the verification sample as possible
- Ensure that if one child in a household is directly verified, all children in the household are considered verified

Provide Clear Instructions

- When providing verification notices, LEAs:
  - Must provide notices to each household in the parent/guardian's primary language
  - Are encouraged to provide households with multiple options for submitting documentation
  - Must include the name of an LEA official who can answer questions
  - Must provide a toll-free number applicants can call to ask questions

Verification Follow-Up

- LEAs must make at least one follow-up attempt if households fail to response
- LEAs must have systems in place to assist LEP households that fail to respond

Questions?

More Information:

SP 43-2016: Ensuring Access to Free and Reduced Price School Meals for Low-Income Students

http://www.fns.usda.gov/nslp/national-school-lunch-program-nslp

Strengthening the DC Process

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Process Improvement Considerations

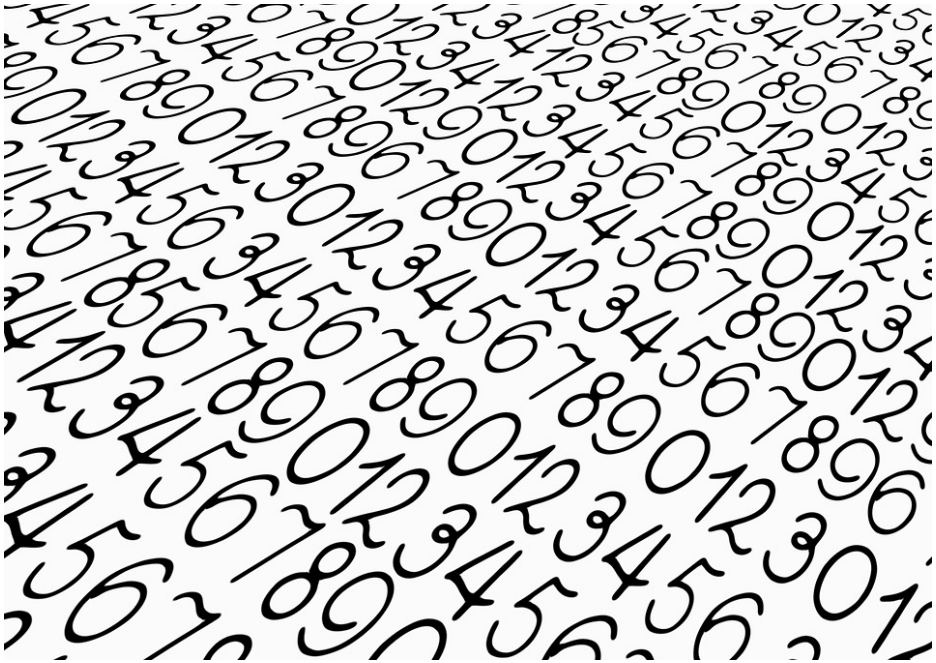
- Importance of frequent matching
- Expanding Direct Certification beyond SNAP
- Adjudication of potential match/unmatched records

Importance of Potential Match/Unmatched

- Adjudication of Potential and Unmatched Records allows for Direct Certification of eligible students which fall outside of the State or LEA's business rules for defining a "Match."

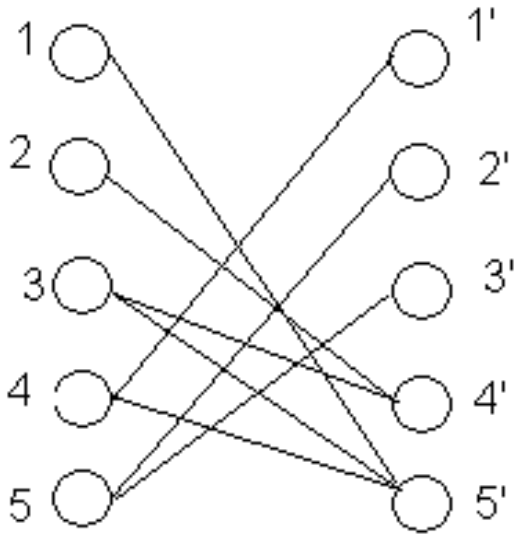
Improving “Match” Effectiveness

- Match Engine Success is Dependent On:
  - Algorithms Employed
  - Business Rules
  - Data Timeliness
  - Data Quality
  - Population Demographics



Improving “Match” Effectiveness

- Understand why potential and unmatched records exist:
  - Use LEA knowledge to guide changes
  - Employ Data Analytics to identify issues

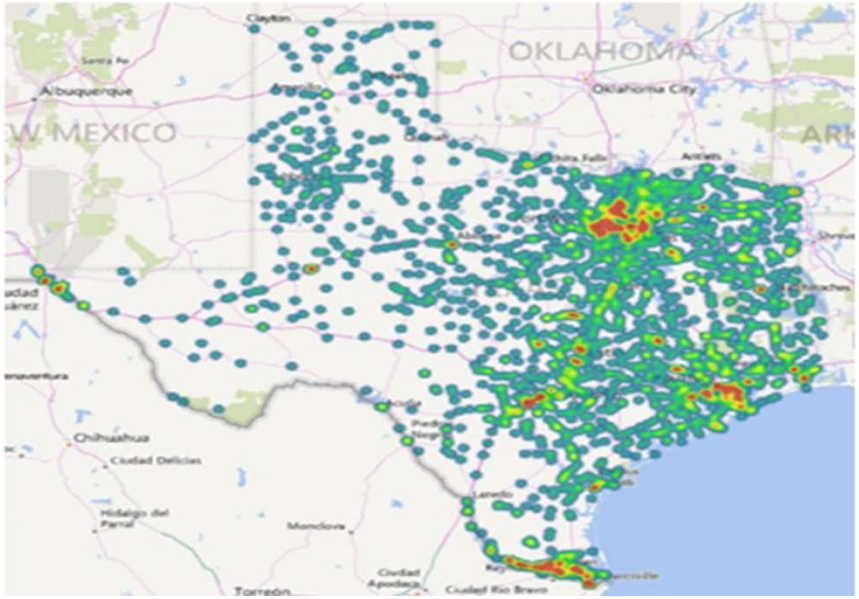


Data Match Diagnosis

- Synthetic Data Testing can identifies weaknesses and strengths
- Available through the DC TTA Team

Geographic Analysis

- Using available data to identify performance by geographic area
- FNS can assist with data “Mapping”



Eva Shepherd –
Nebraska Department of Education - Data Analyst
402.471.3655
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Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2016
Time: 1:00 – 2:30 pm EST

Overview

Nebraska Overview - 2015-16 SY

245 Public (99%)

192 Non Public (64%)

42% Free/Reduced (based on Oct 2015 claims)

DC Evolution

- Connecting State Food Authorities (SFA) to Federal and State Agency data sets
- Advancing technology, automation, frequency, and performance
- Providing SFA with a secure and accessible information system

Timeline

2008

Microsoft® Access

***Deterministic Matching* (Quarterly)**

Tuple

2011

Microsoft® SQL Server using *SSIS

***Probabilistic Matching* (Nightly)**

Microsoft® Fuzzy Lookup Transformation

Foster Children

SNAP TANF

2010

Microsoft® SQL Server

***Deterministic Matching* (Nightly)**

Tuple

2014

Microsoft® .NET from ASP

Probabilistic Matching (Nightly)

Microsoft® Fuzzy Lookup Transformation

SSIS = Microsoft® SQL Server Integration Services

Planning

Research and Explore Opportunities

Cultivate Future Project Team

- DC Work Group (SFA Staff)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
  - Omaha Tribe of Nebraska
  - Santee Sioux Nation
  - Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
- Nebraska Department of Education (NDE)
  - Automated State Student Information System
  - Migrant
  - Homeless

Develop MOAs

Gather Requirements

Matching

Match/Potential Match

Efficacy, User-friendly, and Technology-Driven

- Expand the match range
- Improving the possible match range
- Redesign Single Student Interactive screen
  - Master Case #
  - NDE Student ID (not required)

Questions

Nebraska Department of Education – Nutrition Services Office
800-731-2233 (Nebraska only)
402-471-2488

Sharon L. Davis
Director, Nutrition Services
402.471.3559
Sharon.l.davis@nebraska.gov

DC website:
https://www.education.ne.gov/ns/forms/nslpforms/DirectCert.html

DIRECT CERTIFICATION AND DIRECT VERIFICATION WITH MEDICAID

Lisa Church, Bureau Chief of Implementation and Accountability
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

August 10, 2016

Statewide Matching System

Statewide Matching System

- Local Identifier (LOCAL_ID) from sponsors in order to allow ease of matching back to POS and Student Information systems
- Message Board – Date Range
- Several levels of matching
- Email Notifications
  - File processing status
  - Direct certification matches
  - Inactivity notification
  - Password reset -90 days
  - Quarterly reminder

Statewide Matching System

- Sponsor is able manage users
- Log in as feature
- Validation of NSLP sites with the application system
- Change site names and numbers to match application system
- User Activity Report
  - Sponsor user activity report
  - FNW user activity report
  - FNW no activity report – 90 days

Federal and State Reporting

Federal and State Reporting

- April Data baseline Report
- October Data baseline Report
- Verification baseline Report
- USDA 834 Report
- Matched Student List Report
- Non Match Student List Report
- Match Non Match Address Report – which assist sponsors in extending eligibility locally when one family member is eligible while others are not at the same address

Federal and State Reporting

- Granular Fail Details Report
- Student Record History
- Cumulative Student Record History
- Site Change Count Report
- Site Reconciliation Report
- Direct Certified Reduce Module with reporting
  - Cumulative report
  - Change of status report

Florida Direct Certification System

Questions?

More Information:

Lisa Church, Bureau Chief of Implementation and Accountability
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
(850) 617-7413 Direct Line or Lisa.Church@FreshFromFlorida.com

or

Yashica Ceasar, Program Director, NSLP, SSO, SMP
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
(850) 617-7407 Direct Line or
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Strategies for Access to NSLP and SBP for Households with Limited English Proficiency

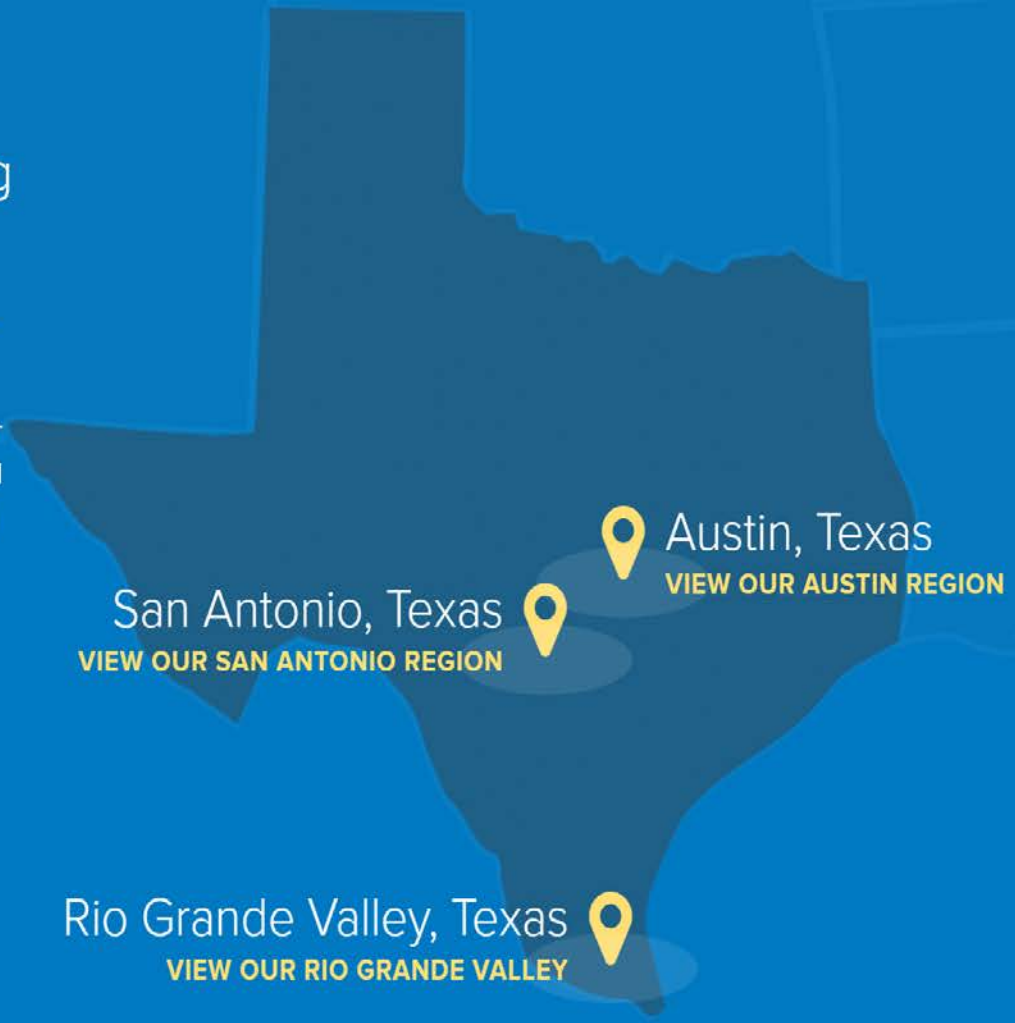
MaryAnn Martinez, MSFS
Director of Child Nutrition

The vision of IDEA Public Schools is to become the healthiest school in the nation

IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

By 2017, IDEA will operate 60 schools in three regions educating tens of thousands of students on their road to and through college.

This will put us on track to become the largest producer of low-income college graduates in the RGV. This phase of growth will increase the number of low-income graduates in the RGV and Central Texas by 50%, fundamentally changing the economic landscape for our communities.



Bilingual Communication

Bilingual (English and Spanish) communication sent to parents for:

- FARM applications sent in our school IMPACT magazine
- Letters mailed to households
- FARM applications and letters to household hand delivered during new student registration
- Flyers advertising our Raffle for FARM applications received from July 1 -30th
- Eligibility result letters mailed to household
- Newspaper advertisements of NSLP and SBP participation
- Newspaper advertisements of SSO participation

IDEA Public Schools

Additional Bilingual Communications

- At school registration sessions parents are asked for preferred language (English or Spanish)
- All automated school messages (phone, email, text) for FARM applications and other communications are sent in preferred language set by parents

IDEA Public Schools

Goal and Results Oriented

IDEA CNP is results oriented, we hold high expectations, and our team achieves and surpasses goals.

Additional strategies we use to increase our meal participation and reach results-

- 99% FARM applications processed for new students by FDOS, and returning students by Sept 23rd 2016.

- 79% Breakfast and 84% Lunch campus student participation YTD as of LDOS.

CNP Weekly Dashboard

CNP Weekly Dashboard

School Code	School	Nutrikids Enrollment	StudentsWithApps	StudentsWith NoApps	%WithApps	Free+Reduced	Farm%	Negative Balance	Collection Rate	YTD Bkfst Participation	YTD Lunch Participation	Weekly Bkfst Participation	We Pa
001	IDEA College Preparatory	793	793	0	100.00%	732	92.31%	-$3,919.95	26.41%	60.88%	75.58%	62.55%	
002	IDEA Quest College Preparatory	746	746	0	100.00%	634	84.99%	-$1,736.80	77.52%	80.67%	78.22%	81.67%	
003	IDEA Frontier College Preparatory	790	790	0	100.00%	685	86.71%	-$5,769.54	34.83%	53.60%	79.69%	51.34%	
004	IDEA Mission College Prep	780	779	1	99.87%	719	92.18%	-$5,399.26	15.87%	66.68%	84.01%	74.19%	
005	IDEA San Benito College Prep	708	706	2	99.72%	571	80.65%	-$3,063.40	71.21%	54.09%	73.01%	53.67%	
006	IDEA San Juan College Preparatory	762	761	1	99.87%	711	93.31%	-$3,805.50	33.75%	78.21%	84.17%	79.89%	
007	IDEA Alamo College Preparatory	670	670	0	100.00%	650	97.01%	-$646.10	74.95%	84.58%	95.45%	86.16%	
008	IDEA Pharr College Preparatory	676	676	0	100.00%	663	98.08%	-$655.65	72.77%	76.73%	90.44%	80.27%	
009	IDEA Edinburg College Preparatory	585	585	0	100.00%	488	83.42%	-$2,103.85	70.01%	86.44%	73.26%	85.61%	
010	IDEA Weslaco College Preparatory	598	597	1	99.83%	520	86.96%	-$4,039.30	52.42%	68.03%	87.07%	80.49%	
011	IDEA McAllen College Preparatory	490	490	0	100.00%	432	88.16%	-$547.40	90.10%	90.89%	81.76%	91.46%	
012	IDEA Brownsville College Preparatory	477	477	0	100.00%	400	83.86%	-$860.07	87.09%	88.50%	80.33%	87.82%	
013	IDEA Weslaco Pike College Preparatory	247	247	0	100.00%	220	89.07%	-$2,283.60	34.35%	66.19%	83.78%	73.15%	
014	IDEA River View College Preparatory	120	120	0	100.00%	105	87.50%	-$230.00	87.89%	81.54%	94.31%	84.96%	
015	IDEA North Mission College Preparatory	121	121	0	100.00%	103	85.12%	-$153.10	91.48%	82.45%	87.06%	86.03%	
020	IDEA Carver College Preparatory	295	293	2	99.32%	262	88.81%	-$2,449.50	35.47%	63.90%	90.65%	73.82%	
021	IDEA South Flores College Preparatory	353	353	0	100.00%	289	81.87%	-$1,878.85	70.20%	82.06%	85.45%	83.59%	
022	IDEA Monterrey Park College Preparatory	240	240	0	100.00%	222	92.50%	-$991.45	62.38%	75.42%	88.41%	77.07%	
023	IDEA Walzem College Preparatory	228	228	0	100.00%	188	82.46%	-$1,707.50	62.91%	64.75%	84.11%	73.50%	
024	IDEA Eastside College Preparatory	108	107	1	99.07%	105	97.22%	-$467.30	19.44%	75.79%	88.76%	65.40%	
035	IDEA Allan College Preparatory	479	479	0	100.00%	461	96.24%	-$1,663.95	34.72%	79.04%	94.02%	82.14%	
036	IDEA Rundberg College Preparatory	129	129	0	100.00%	122	94.57%	-$989.75	26.96%	87.01%	88.68%	76.04%	
101	IDEA Academy	687	686	1	99.85%	640	93.16%	-$1,423.95	70.75%	80.86%	87.46%	82.01%	
102	IDEA Quest Academy	698	698	0	100.00%	630	90.26%	-$750.30	87.74%	79.27%	84.00%	78.68%	
103	IDEA Frontier Academy	710	710	0	100.00%	655	92.25%	-$3,063.77	52.94%	76.89%	83.31%	74.48%	
104	IDEA Mission Academy	715	714	1	99.86%	664	92.87%	-$3,504.99	43.71%	78.66%	87.77%	82.39%	
105	IDEA San Benito Academy	716	716	0	100.00%	595	83.10%	-$1,877.65	79.90%	65.39%	75.15%	62.80%	
106	IDEA San Juan Academy	710	709	1	99.86%	652	91.83%	-$1,582.95	76.20%	77.53%	88.91%	82.26%	
107	IDEA Alamo Academy	822	822	0	100.00%	787	95.74%	-$748.50	78.84%	84.16%	92.82%	83.82%	
108	IDEA Pharr Academy	827	827	0	100.00%	807	97.58%	-$664.70	79.97%	81.37%	92.78%	84.18%	
109	IDEA Edinburg Academy	748	748	0	100.00%	602	80.48%	-$2,550.15	77.01%	87.37%	74.09%	85.47%	
110	IDEA Weslaco Academy	705	705	0	100.00%	613	86.95%	-$2,148.75	70.02%	80.36%	82.40%	79.00%	

Campus	Values Total Enrollment	Total Breakfast Served	Total Lunch Served	Weekly Breakfast Participation	Weekly Lunch Participation
IDEA South Flores Academy	**593**	**2607**	**2093**	**87.93%**	**70.59%**
1	**113**	**502**	**387**	**88.85%**	**68.50%**
A.Rivas-B	28	129	92	92.14%	65.71%
D.Marti-B	28	115	92	82.14%	65.71%
E.Pears-B	27	117	104	86.67%	77.04%
L.Sulpi-B	30	141	99	94.00%	66.00%
2	**131**	**561**	**447**	**85.65%**	**68.24%**
I.Marti-B	2	0	4	0.00%	40.00%
L.Huehl-B	32	138	136	86.25%	85.00%
T.Princ-B	33	153	91	92.73%	55.15%
V.Gutie-B	31	130	105	83.87%	67.74%
Z.Villa-B	33	140	111	84.85%	67.27%
3	**114**	**513**	**426**	**90.00%**	**74.74%**
J.Mena-B	28	129	110	92.14%	78.57%
K.Alley-B	32	142	114	88.75%	71.25%
L.Danie-B	27	122	102	90.37%	75.56%
S.Carde-B	27	120	100	88.89%	74.07%
4	**124**	**530**	**465**	**85.48%**	**75.00%**
A.Shrop-B	31	130	116	83.87%	74.84%
E.Ferna-B	32	141	111	88.13%	69.38%
J.Lando-B	31	137	123	88.39%	79.35%
J.River-B	30	122	115	81.33%	76.67%
K	**111**	**501**	**368**	**90.27%**	**66.31%**
A.Rivas-B	1	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
I.Marti-B	1	0	2	0.00%	40.00%
L.Cavaz-B	25	112	76	89.60%	60.80%
R.Fetty-B	29	145	113	100.00%	77.93%
R.Pledg-B	28	123	70	87.86%	50.00%
S.Ville-B	27	121	107	89.63%	79.26%
IDEA South Flores College Preparatory	**342**	**1539**	**1458**	**90.00%**	**85.26%**
6	**119**	**531**	**531**	**89.24%**	**89.24%**
A.Wratt-B	31	139	133	89.68%	85.81%
M.Medin-B	30	139	131	92.67%	87.33%
R.Lopez-B	28	119	128	85.00%	91.43%
V.Mendo-B	30	134	139	89.33%	92.67%
7	**113**	**522**	**480**	**92.39%**	**84.96%**
B.Holgu-B	30	142	116	94.67%	77.33%
D.Zaval-B	30	139	133	92.67%	88.67%
J.Mora-B	26	119	117	91.54%	90.00%
J.Willi-B	27	122	114	90.37%	84.44%
8	**110**	**486**	**447**	**88.36%**	**81.27%**
B.Duart-B	28	127	118	90.71%	84.29%
C.McClo-B	26	110	99	84.62%	76.15%
D.Kleif-B	29	134	131	92.41%	90.34%
E.Cordo-B	27	115	99	85.19%	73.33%
Grand Total	**935**	**4146**	**3551**	**88.68%**	**75.96%**

Also contributing to our success

- Breakfast and lunch participation activities throughout the year
- Ongoing professional development for CM & CAM(FARM & participation)
- Continuous improvement in meal quality and presentation (hiring Chef, etc.)
- FREE meals for students who qualify as reduced

MaryAnn Martinez, Director of Child Nutrition,
IDEA Public Schools

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