Free and Reduced Price – Lunch Overview

Data Submissions Boot Camp

Released August 4, 2020

Required for both new and returning school contacts

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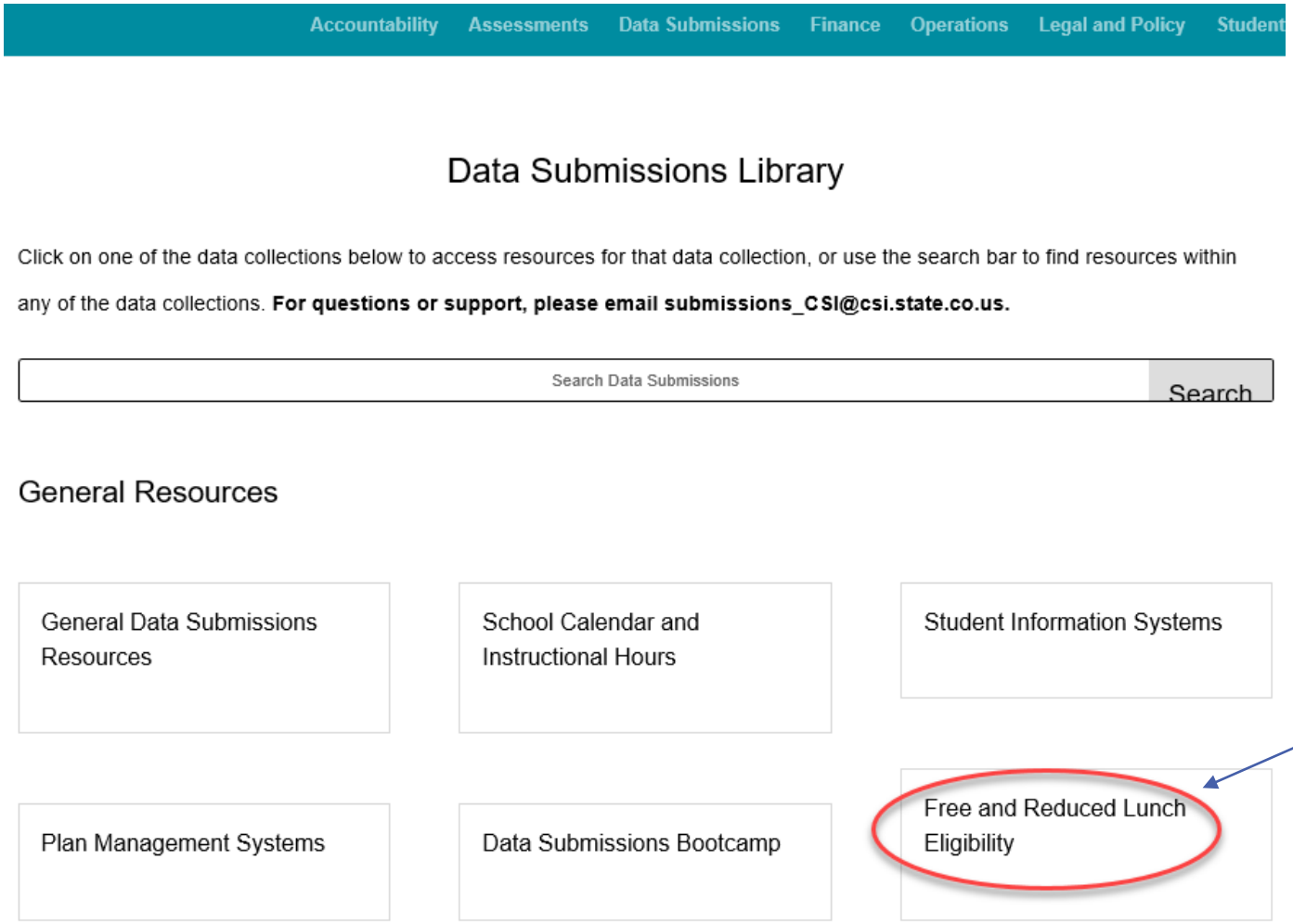
Learning Objectives

- Determining eligibility
- State reporting aspects
- Accountability impacts and data accuracy

Learning Objectives



CSI Submissions FRL Resources

FRL Basics

FRL Eligibility Status

- Must be determined for every enrolled student in a CSI school (*even with remote learning*)
- Must be flagged in the SIS to populate extracts correctly for state collections
- Impacts accountability reports and funding streams

Determining Eligibility

Federal Meal Application

- School participation in federal lunch program with an SFA
- Primarily completed online by families
- SFA provides eligibility status to school

State FEDS Form

- School does not participate in federal lunch program
- Primarily completed on paper by families
- School determines eligibility status according to state guidelines

Flow Diagram at https://resources.csi.state.co.us/free-and-reduced-lunch-eligibility/

Determining Eligibility

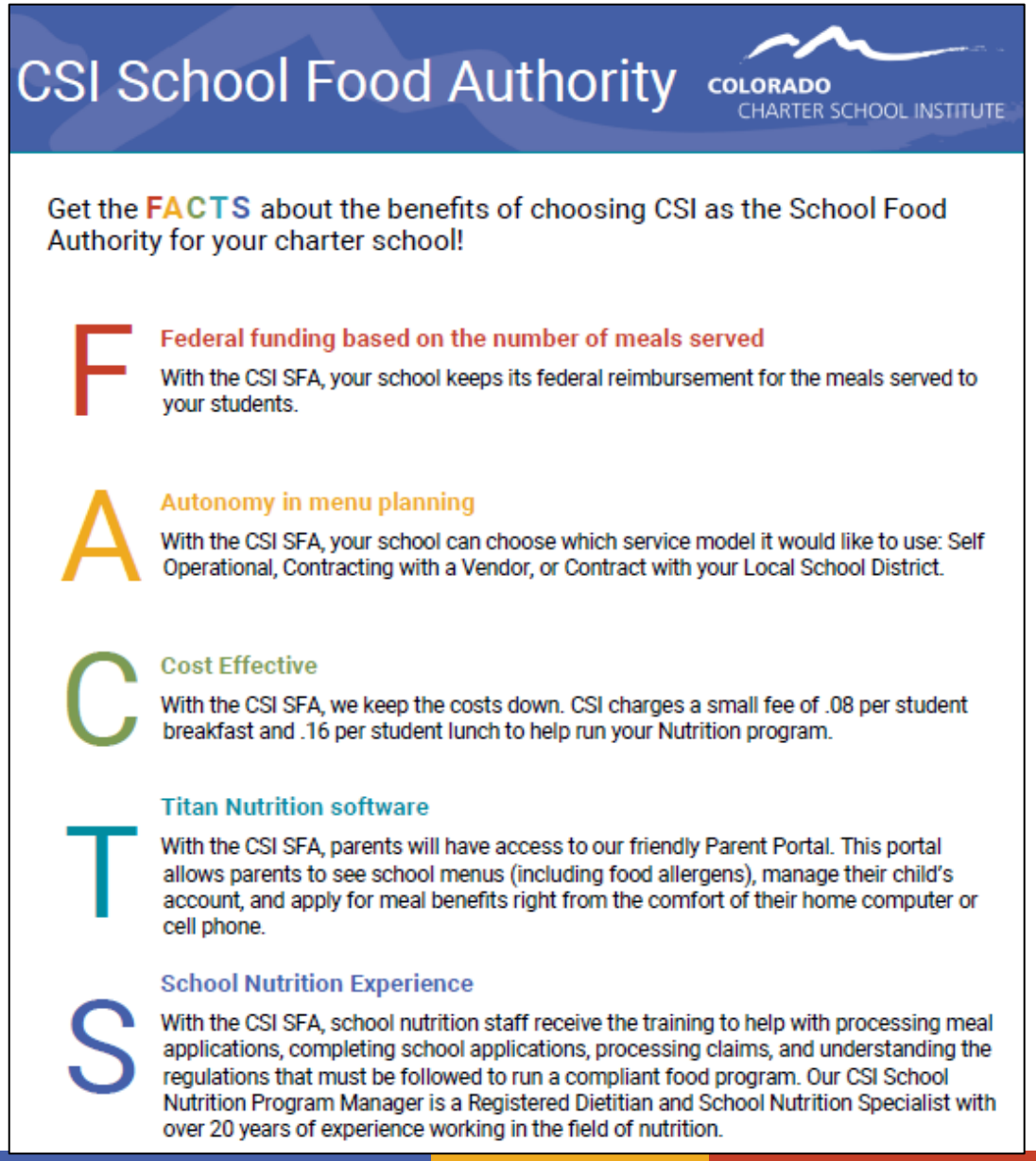
Family Engagement

Ongoing struggles to get families to complete applications

- **Incentives for FEDS Form**
  - See “Information to Households Letter” on CSI FRL Resources webpage (benefits)
- **Immigrant/Migrant Families**
  - “Public Charge Rule” used by immigration for entry to US/Green card/Visa
    - https://protectingimmigrantfamilies.org/know-your-rights/
    - FRL applications do NOT impact public charge decisions

Determining Eligibility

New for 20-21:
CSI School Food Authority



Determining Eligibility

Direct Certification

- Automatic approval for ***free*** lunch based on state assistance program data
  - SNAP, TANF, migrant
  - Between July 1 and October count date

Categorical Eligibility

- Automatic approval for ***free*** lunch based other state/local/school data
  - Homeless, runaway, foster

Determining Eligibility

Carry Over Provisions

- Prior year eligibility in effect for first 30 operating days of school year
  - No other determination can be made
  - Prior district/school status can be used for transfers
  - “Variance Waiver”- extends 30-day carryover to October Count day
    - CSI will request this from CDE

State Reporting

October Count Collection

- ~$8,100 per pupil funding
- ~$1,200 additional “At Risk” funding
  For each reported ***free*** lunch student
- Eligibility must be determined on or before Count day
- Status reported in the Student Demographic (SD) file

State Reporting

End of Year Collection

- Consistency with October Count data reported
- Continue to determine eligibility for transfer students
- Status reported in the Student Demographic (SD) file

Accountability & Accuracy

Accountability impacts

- FRL used for ***economically disadvantaged*** in dropout, graduation, and mobility rates

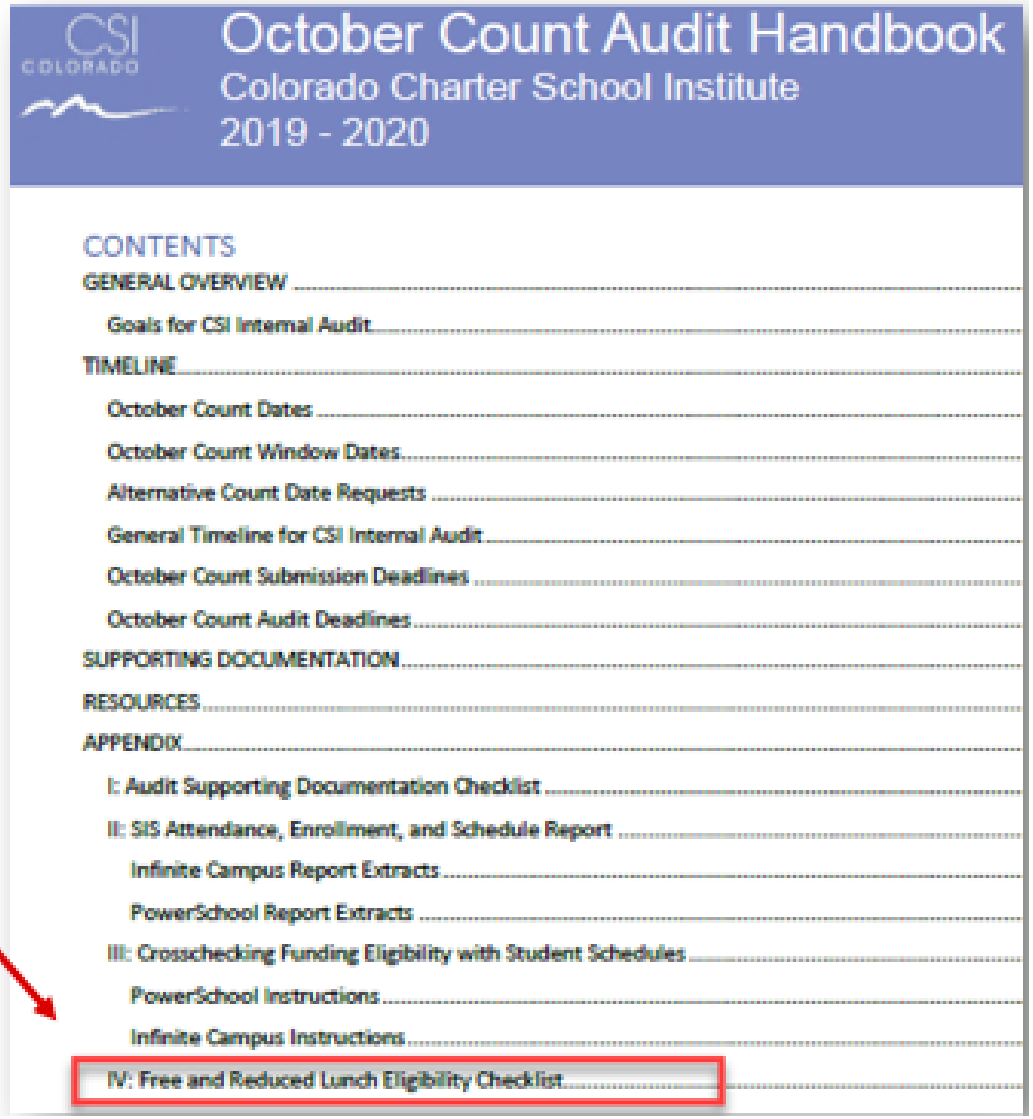
Underreported estimates

- ***CDE recent find***: About 10% free lunch are homeless yet CSI has lowest homeless percentage in state
- In general, FRL is underreported due to data management and reporting process mistakes

Accountability & Accuracy

Appendix IV: Free and Reduced Lunch Checklist

All schools should complete FRL checklist



CSI COLORADO

October Count Audit Handbook
Colorado Charter School Institute
2019 - 2020

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Accountability & Accuracy

Validations

- Check that your SIS is being updated accurately
  - FRL statuses typically roll over by default from the prior year--make sure they are current
- Run ad hoc reports to check student eligibility counts
- Filter student counts in October Count and EOY Student Demographic file submissions
- Migrant, homeless, and foster students are categorically eligible for ***free*** lunch—check for these
- Review FRL counts carefully in your October Count and EOY summary reports

Follow Up FRL Exercise

1. Find your way to the CSI **Data Submissions Bootcamp** webpage under the Data Submissions Library (starting from the main CSI webpage)
2. Next, go to **Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Overview** module webpage (where you started this recording from)
3. Click on the link provided to access the **FRL Exercise** and complete it
4. A link to the slides for this module will also be available if you would like to have that open while you complete the **FRL Exercise**

Thank you for participating!

For questions email
submissions_csi@csi.state.co.us

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