STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
Accountability Coordinators
Child Nutrition Program Directors/Supervisors

FROM: Daniel Ralyea
Director, Office of Research and Data Analysis

Ron Jones
Director, Office of Health and Nutrition

DATE: November 2, 2017

RE: Poverty Rating Indicator in PowerSchool

The United States Department of Agriculture has changed the funding mechanism associated with the National School Lunch Program. The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) allows participating schools to serve meals to all children at no out-of-pocket cost. However, this provision changes the way free-and-reduced eligibility is documented and calculated. This has changed the state's ability to identify students in poverty at an individual level using meal eligibility. Several years ago a new methodology for identifying students in poverty was developed based on the following indicators:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP),
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF),
- Medicaid (within three years),
- Foster,
- Migrant, and
- Homeless/Runaway.

The SCDE has partnered with PowerSchool and Level Data to develop an identification system within PowerSchool. This identification system is based on an encrypted table in PowerSchool populated using local child nutrition program data, the Department of Health and Human Services' Medicaid roster, and other applicable fields within PowerSchool data. These systems

are working in tandem to populate the pupil in poverty indicator in the Add-On Weighting table for funding under the Education Finance Act.

Districts that participate in the Level Data state plan will be able to participate in a program that will connect to their child nutrition program software, and will allow the import of Medicaid, migrant, and foster data into an encrypted table in PowerSchool that will populate the Pupil in Poverty (PIP) indicator. The PIP indicator will connect to the Add-On Weighting table to secure the funding on the 45th and 135th day. The PIP indicator will be used to calculate the school and district poverty rates for accountability and other purposes.

Districts that do not participate in the Level Data state plan will need to develop an alternative solution to populate the encrypted table with nutrition data and will be furnished with the import tables for populating the balance of the indicators. Failure to do so would potentially reduce district funding related to the PIP indicator (weighting .20 per student). It could also reduce the district's reported poverty percentage, which is used for many other purposes.

For information on participation in the Level Data state plan, or for information on import tables for alternative solutions, please contact Dan Ralyea at dralyea@ed.sc.gov.