

ABC for STUDENTS (INTERNET VOUCHER PROGRAM) FAQ's from August 17, 2020 Webinar

1. Q: Will the ABC for Students Internet Voucher Program for Students go throughout the remainder of the calendar year or school year?

A: The timeframe for the program is from program launch in the next week or so through December 30, 2020.
2. Q: Is eligibility based on the latest National School Lunch Program (NSLP) status or based on the end of last year?

A: The data sets pull from the 2020-2021 school year, but ALSDE will provide ADECA an updated data set to accommodate student address/eligibility changes throughout the semester. Also included in the data set are students with a lunch code of Temporary Direct Cert (DC). These are students that we identified as DC during the prior school year (2019-2020) that have not been identified as DC in the current school year (2020-2021). These students remain DC for the first 30 operating days of the school year or October 1st, whichever comes first.
3. Q: Where can I find the ABC for Students Program resources for school districts?

A: Here is the public link to the folder "Toolkit": bit.ly/ToolkitABC
A guide to the Toolkit can be accessed directly here: bit.ly/ToolkitABCGuide
The Google folder can be located at:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Kyp137T33BQUBNZwqmMrupkHmwA1F8frRgs7H2m6qKE/edit>
4. Q: How do families who have already acquired hotspots through the school system move their devices to the ABC program?

A: The ABC for Students Program is independent of individual school programs and won't be able to accommodate changes among programs.
5. Q: If there is a balance at that address for a particular internet service provider, how will that affect connectivity?

A: ABC for Students vouchers will not be applicable to outstanding balances, but we anticipate that providers will honor them even for families with an outstanding balance, given that the payment will be made by ADECA, not by families.
6. Q: For schools with Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) status, a universal meal plan for all students at no charge, will all students receive the voucher, or will they need to complete individual NSLP forms?

A: All students enrolled in CEP and Provision 2 schools at the time of file generation and in subsequent files were/will be included in the data set sent to ADECA and CTC. Individual NSLP forms will not need to be completed. Each household will receive a voucher letter, but per the letter households earning more than \$48,470 are asked not to use the voucher.
7. Q: Will school systems be required to identify voucher users with income over the amount to qualify for free-reduced lunch?

A: No, the ALSDE will work with ADECA to share statewide data. That data is based on each local systems' entry into the student information system. *Please be sure to update data as promptly*

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as possible, as students will not receive vouchers until we have their data – including accurate mailing and physical addresses – to provide to the ABC for Students Program.

8. Q: Is there an option for school systems to use their CARES Act ESSER funds to continue payments for the students through the provider for the remainder of the school year?
A: Internet service for students would be an allowable expense under the ESSER grant. Many internet service providers have established or created new programs to provide free or discounted rates for low-income students. The program team at ADECA and CTC will be able to advise regarding this, if you like, later this year once the ABC for Students Program is launched and underway.
9. Q: If we know of a local company in our area who can provide service but missed the RFP opportunity, is there consideration for allowing that company to still be a provider?
A: The window for submissions under the RFI process through ADECA is now closed. A local district may still provide a company's information to info@ABCstudents.org for program contingency consideration.
10. Q: Any advice to avoid confusion for families in local school systems that have already signed them up and provided hotspots?
A: We recommend explaining that the two programs are unrelated and that families should utilize the program that best suits their needs, with understanding that the ABC for Students Program expires on December 30, 2020.
11. Q: Can a homeless student qualify for a hotspot?
A: Homeless students are included in the data sent to ADECA and CTC, who are working on a strategy to get ABC for Students hotspots to homeless students.
12. Q: If a student qualifies for the Program based on prior year status and then they do not qualify for 20-21 eligibility, will their service be terminated at the end of the 30-day grace period?
A: No, once a student is connected, we anticipate that their service will continue until the Program expires on December 30, 2020.
13. Q: Will local school systems receive a list of families that are participating to prevent duplication of services?
A: The lunch code information used to build the data files is pulled from data replicated to the state by local districts. Please refer to your student management system and Student Data Application (<https://aim.alsde.edu>) for information on students eligible for the program. The **Enrollment → Student - Last Enrollment** and **Federal Programs → Students – Poverty** views in the Student Data Application are good sources for this information.