THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2025 | THE LEADER 5



Public Release for Schools Operating the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program

The Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services, has finalized its policy for free and reduced price meals for students unable to pay the full price of meals served under the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program and the Afterschool Care Snack Program.

State and Local school officials have adopted the following family size and income criteria for determining eligibility:

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES (Effective 7-1-2025)

Household Size	Free Meals					Reduced Price Meals				
	Yearly	Monthly	Twice a Month	Every two weeks	Weekly	Yearly	Monthly	Twice a Month	Every two weeks	Weekl y
1	20,345	1,696	848	783	392	28,953	2,413	1,207	1,114	557
2	27,495	2,292	1,146	1,058	529	39,128	3,261	1,631	1,505	753
3	34,645	2,888	1,444	1,333	667	49,303	4,109	2,055	1,897	949
4	41,795	3,483	1,742	1,608	804	59,478	4,957	2,479	2,288	1,144
5	48,945	4,079	2,040	1,883	942	69,653	5,805	2,903	2,679	1,340
6	56,095	4,675	2,338	2,158	1,079	79,828	6,653	3,327	3,071	1,536
7	63,245	5,271	2,636	2,433	1,217	90,003	7,501	3,751	3,462	1,731
8	70,395	5,867	2,934	2,708	1,354	100,178	8,349	4,175	3,853	1,927
For each additional family										
member add:	7,150	596	298	275	138	10,175	848	424	392	196

Households may be eligible for free or reduced-price meal benefits one of four ways 1. Households whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for reduced price meals or free meals, if they complete an application for free and reduced price school meals/milk. Households may complete one application listing all children and return it to your student's school. When completing an application, only the last four digits of the social security number of the household's primary wage earner or

another adult household member is needed. 2. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households, students receiving benefits under the Family Investment Program (FIP) and students in a few specific Medicaid programs are eligible for free or reduced price meals. Most students from SNAP and FIP households will be qualified for free meals automatically. These households will receive a letter from their student's schools notifying them of their benefits. Households that receive a letter from the school need to do nothing more for their student(s) to receive free or reduced price meals No further application is necessary. If any students were not listed on the notice

of eligibility, the household should contact the school to have free or reduced price meal benefits extended to them. If you feel you would qualify for free meal benefits and received notification qualifying for reduced price benefits, complete an application for free and reduced price meals. Households must contact the school if

they choose to decline meal benefits 3. Some SNAP and FIP households will receive a letter from the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (Iowa HHS) which will qualify the children listed on the letter for free meals. Parents must take this letter to the student's school to receive free meals

4. SNAP or FIP households receiving benefits that do not receive a letter from Iowa HHS must complete an application with the abbreviated information as indicated on the application and instructions, for their students to receive free meals. When the application lists an assistance program's case number for any household member, eligibility for free benefits is extended to all students in a household.

Eligibility from the previous year will continue within the same school for up to 30 operating days into the new school year. When the carryover period ends, unless the household is notified that their students are directly certified or the household submits an application that is approved, the students must pay full price for school meals and the school will not send a reminder or a notice of expired eligibility.

An application cannot be approved unless complete eligibility information is submitted. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year. If a family member becomes unemployed the family should contact the school to complete an application. Households notified of their student's eligibility must contact the school if the household chooses to decline the free meal benefits.

Foster children are eligible for free meal benefits. Some foster students will be qualified for free meals automatically through the state direct certification process. Their host family will receive notification of these benefits. Families that receive this notification from the school need to do nothing more for their foster students to receive free meals. If a family has foster students living with them and does not receive notification and wishes to apply for such meals, instructions for making application for such students are contained on the application form. A foster student may be included as a member of the foster family if the foster family chooses to also apply for benefits for other students. Including students in foster care as household members may help other students in the household qualify for benefits. If the foster family is not eligible for free or reduced price meal benefits, it does not prevent a

foster student from receiving benefits. Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) participants may be eligible for free or reduced price meals based on a completed application When known by the school, households will be notified of any child eligible for

free meals if the children are enrolled in the Head Start/Even Start program or are considered homeless, migrant or runaway. If any children are not listed on the notice of eligibility, contact the school for assistance in receiving benefits. If households are dissatisfied with the application approval done by the officials, they may

make a formal appeal either orally or in writing to the school's designated hearing official. The policy statement on file at the school contains an outline of the hearing procedure. School officials may verify the information in the application, and that deliberate misrepresentation of information may subject the applicant to prosecution under applicable state and federal criminal statutes. Households should contact their

local school for additional information. There will be no discrimination against individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) in the school meal programs

Nondiscrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, JSDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by: 1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20250-9410; or 2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or 3. email: Program Intake@usda.gov

3. email: Program.Intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Iowa Non-Discrimination Statement: (revised 7-1-25) It is the policy of this CNP

provider not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, age, or religion in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code 216.6, 216.7, and 216.9. If you have questions or grievances related to compliance with this policy by this CNP Provider, contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, 6200 Park Ave, Suite 100, Des Moines, 14.502014 phone purposed. IA 50321; phone number 515-281-4121 or 800-457-4416; website: https://icrc.iowa gov/.

DNR

DNR removes 'special concern' species from endangered species rules



gered species.

Species on the "special concern" list include bald eagles, peregrine falcons, southern flying squirrels, smooth green snakes and a number of

threatened in the state."

"The 'special concern' classification is not identified in that law," Krausman said.

This is not the first notice DNR has put out about its efforts to refine its administrative code. In fact, all state agencies have been completing the same work following an executive order, known as Executive Order 10, signed by Gov. Kim Reynolds in 2023. The executive order created a moratorium on administrative rulemaking and ordered agencies to complete a "comprehensive review" of all existing administrative rules. Reynolds, in the release about the order, said it was a "commonsense approach that gets government out of the way and leads to a more robust economy in every communi-

The order also called for an evaluation and "rigorous cost benefit analysis" of existing rules to determine if the public benefits justified the cost.

A press release from DNR about the proposed rule change regarding special con-cern species said "there is no change in policy or enforcement in the new rule.'

skipper, and regal fritillary. Species moved to the "endangered" list include: pugnose shiner, dusted skipper and ottoe skipper.

Wally Taylor legal and con-

changes DNR has made in its efforts to follow Reynolds' order, and is involved in a lawsuit against the state that alleges the governor does not have the authority to make

By: Cami Koons - July 9, 2025 6:18 pm

A bald eagle soars above the Des Moines River in late January 2025. (Photo by Cami Koons/Iowa Capital Dispatch)

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has announced proposed rules that remove the category of "special concern" species from its rule on threatened and endan-

butterflies.

The move came as part of DNR's adherence to the governor's executive order to simplify administrative rules across agencies.

Tammie Krausman, the department's public information officer, said the decision to remove the category allows the department's administrative rules to follow the relevant chapter of Iowa statute.

Krausman said in an email this will make the administrative rules "consistent with" the statute that "explicitly addresses that DNR responsibilities are to identify those species that are endangered or

Many of the special concern species have small populations in the state, like peregrine falcons, which were reintroduced in Iowa and are regularly monitored by DNR staff and Iowa volunteers.

Some species from the 'special concern" category were moved to the threatened or endangered category in the proposed rules. Species moved to the "threatened" list include: black tern, pirate perch, bullsnake, two spotted servation chair with the Sierra Club Iowa Chapter, said it was "a problem" to remove the special concern category from the administrative rules.

"Even though those species have no legal protection, at least the public is aware that those species need to be considered and carefully watched, and so does the DNR," Taylor said. "Without those being on the list, the DNR can conveniently say, 'Well, they're not listed, we don't need to worry about them, and ... the public doesn't know enough to be concerned."

Taylor has opposed several

agencies adopt less-restrictive standards.

Krausman said the list of special concern species will continue to be part of the Iowa Wildlife Action Plan. and she said the department will "actively monitor the status of these species."

DNR is accepting informal comments from the public on the proposed rule changes through July 15. Those interested can submit their written comments via email to John Pearson and Kelly Poole at the department : john.pearson@dnr.iowa.gov and kelly. poole@dnr.iowa.gov.

DNR seeks public input on wildlife rules

Paddlers urged to stay off rain swollen rivers

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking informal comments on administrative rules related to Iowa's wildlife. Executive Order 10 (EO10), signed by Governor Reynolds on January 10, 2023, requires

all state agencies to identify which administrative rule chapters will be retained or rescinded. The EO10 process includes public engagement with the opportunity for input.

The Iowa DNR has re-

viewed chapter 571 Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) Chapters 76 (Unprotected Non-game), 93 (Commercial use of captive-reared waterfowl), 104 (Wildlife Importation, Transportation, and Disease Monitoring), 112

(Hunting Preserves) and 116 (Help Us Stop Hunger program administration). Based on the review, DNR has revised these chapters to modernize processes and improve clarity to customers. The public is invited to provide

informal comments on the proposed rule changes. DNR will accept written comments through September 23, 2025. Written comments regarding the proposed rules should be submitted to: Chris.Ensminger@dnr.iowa.gov. Comments should be made to specific portions of a rule.

Drafts of the rules, including a "clean" copy and a version showing revisions, can be found on the DNR webpage: www.iowadnr.gov/ about/administrative-rules.

Rivers across Iowa are swollen and swift with recent heavy rainfall. Some rivers are already dangerously high at or near flood stage, and more rivers could rise fast with chances of rain forecast later this week.

"All paddlers, even experienced paddlers, should stay off of rain swollen rivers," said

Todd Robertson, paddling instructor and Outreach Coordinator for Rivers Programs at the Iowa DNR. "If a river level is at the top or out of its bank, don't try to paddle on it."

Always know your river conditions before you go paddling. For the latest river conditions, visit the USGS site at https://waterdata.usgs.gov/ia/

nwis/current or contact your local county conservation board for updates.

"Swollen rivers are super powerful with unpredictable current and tons of wood or branch piles coming downstream that can pull a paddler under or pin them underwater," said Robertson. "These deadly hazards are usually found on outside river bends where currents are strongest, but can be found anywhere on rivers including at the base of bridge piers."

Check the Iowa DNR's inlike downed trees and log jams, strainers and bridge construction. Pay attention to the

dam warning signs and know where dams are located before you head out on the water. Bridge construction projects across Iowa could close some sections of rivers this summer.

"Water trails across Iowa are impassable with large fallen trees including the South Skunk River Water Trail immediately downstream of Lincoln Way in Ames,"warns John Wenck, Water Trails Coordinator at the Iowa DNR.

Iowa DNR encourages paddlers to stay alert when paddling on Iowa Rivers. If you see potential hazards in a river, report them to John Wenck at John.Wenck@dnr.iowa.gov.



chance of showers and

thunderstorms. Mostly

cloudy, with a low around 56. North wind around 10

teractive paddler's map for updates on real-time hazards



Extended Forecast for Dayton IA From the National Weather Service Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Monday Sunday Partly sunny, with a high near 83. Partly sunny, with a high near 84.

Partly sunny, with a high near 79. Partly sunny, with a high near 72. North wind 8 to 10 mph.

A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 85.

Partly cloudy, with a low around 57. A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 66. Chance of precipitation is 60%

A 40 percent chance A 40 percent chance of showers and thunder-storms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 66. of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 67.

