

New eligibility regulations for Reduced Price or Free School Meals

The National School Lunch Program provides free and reduced price meals for students who are unable to pay the full price. Eligibility is determined by household size and income. In some cases, foster children are eligible for benefits regardless of household income.

Qualifying students receive meals either without charge or at a reduced price of no more than 40 cents per lunch.

Children in households receiving Food Stamps or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) are eligible for free meals. Households receiving Food Stamp or TANF benefits may be directly certified by a letter from their school advising them of their eligibility for free meals, or by a notice of eligibility from their Department of Human Services (DHS) certifier. Schools will accept the DHS notice/certification letter as proof of eligibility.

Households not directly certified may complete a confidential application which will be reviewed by an official at the school to determine eligibility. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year. Information provided on an application may be verified at any time during the school year. An application cannot be approved unless it contains the following information:

- A Food Stamp or TANF case number for each child and the signature of an

adult household member.

—OR—

- The names of all household members, the amount and source of income received by each in the prior month, the signature of an adult household member and the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application (or a statement that the person has no social security number).

Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the school official who determines eligibility may discuss the decision with the official. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal may make a written or oral request to the school's hearings officer (contact the school for the name, address, and phone number of the officer) for a hearing on the decision.

Households that receive free or reduced price benefits must report to the school when their income increases more than \$50 per month or \$600 per year, when there are decreases in household size, or when they no longer receive Food Stamps or TANF benefits. Parents

Children from households whose income is at or below the following levels are eligible for free or reduced price meals or free milk:

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	REDUCED PRICE MEALS		
	ANNUAL	MONTH	WEEK
-1-	16,613	1,385	320
-2-	22,422	1,869	432
-3-	28,231	2,353	543
-4-	34,040	2,837	655
-5-	39,849	3,321	767
-6-	45,658	3,805	879
-7-	51,467	4,289	990
-8-	57,276	4,773	1,102
For each add'l family member add	+5,809	+485	+112

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	FREE MEALS		
	ANNUAL	MONTH	WEEK
-1-	11,674	973	225
-2-	15,756	1,313	303
-3-	19,838	1,654	382
-4-	23,920	1,994	460
-5-	28,002	2,334	539
-6-	32,084	2,674	617
-7-	36,166	3,014	696
-8-	40,248	3,354	774
For each add'l family member add	+4,082	+341	+79

should contact the school to request an application for benefits if the household no longer receives Food Stamps, TANF or FDIPIR benefits, if household income decreases, if household size increases, or a family member becomes jobless.

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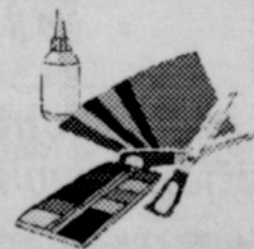
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