

Dear Parent/Guardian:

*Children need healthy meals to learn. Your school offers healthy meals every school day. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals.*

1. **Should I fill out an application if I got a letter this school year saying my children are approved for free or reduced price meals?** Please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school if you have questions.
2. **Do I need to fill out an application for each child?** No. Complete the application to apply for free or reduced price meals. Submit one Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information.
3. **Who can get free meals?** Children in households getting SNAP (formally known as Food Stamps) or TANF and most foster children can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free price meals if your household income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines.
4. **Can homeless, runaway and migrant children get free meals?** Please call [school, homeless liaison or migrant coordinator] to see if your child(ren) qualify, if you have not been informed that they will get free meals.
5. **Who can get reduced price meals?** Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Income Chart, shown below.
  
6. **I get WIC. Can my child(ren) get free meals?** Children in households participating in WIC maybe eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please fill out an application.
7. **My child(ren) receive Oregon Health Plan benefits. Can they get free meals?** This can only be determined by completing this application for meal benefits.
8. **Will the information I give be checked?** Yes, we may ask you to send written proof.
9. **If I don't qualify now, may I apply later?** Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start getting SNAP (Food Stamps), TANF or other benefits. If you lose your job, your children may be able to get free or reduced price meals.
10. **What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application?** You should talk to school officials.
11. **May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen?** Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced price meals.
12. **Who should I include as members of my household?** You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends). You must include yourself and all children who live with you.

13. **What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount that you normally get. For example, if you normally get \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only got \$900, put down that you get \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get it only sometimes.
14. **We are in the military, do we include our housing allowance or combat pay as income?** If your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Combat pay is excluded if it is: received in addition to the service member's basic pay; received as a result of the service member's deployment to or service in an area that has been designated as a combat zone; and not received by the service member prior to his/her deployment to or service in a designated combat zone. All other allowances must be included in your gross income.
15. **My family needs more help. Are there other programs we might apply for?** To find out how to apply for SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-800-723-3638.