



Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Wake County Public Schools offer healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.00 (K-5), \$1.25 (6-12); lunch costs \$2.00 (K-5), \$2.25 (6-12). Your children may qualify for free meals or reduced price meals. Reduced price is \$ .30 for breakfast and \$ .40 for lunch.

- 1. Do I need to fill out a separate application for each child?** No. Complete 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. Be sure to check the "no income" box if your child does not have his/her own income. Failing to check this box will delay the approval of your household application. **Return the completed application to: Your child's school or to Child Nutrition Services, 1551 Rock Quarry Road, Raleigh, NC 27610, (919) 856-2920.**
- 2. Who can get free meals?** Children in households receiving Food and Nutrition Services (FNS, formerly Food Stamps) benefits, or getting TANF automatically qualify for free meals. If the household income is less than 130% of poverty, based on the size of your household, children may receive free meals.
- 3. Can homeless, runaway and migrant children get free meals?** Please call (Your school's homeless liaison/ migrant coordinator or 919-850-1600) to see if your child(ren) qualify, if you have not been informed that they will get free meals.
- 4. Who can get reduced price meals?** Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is between 131% and 185% of the Federal Poverty level for your household size.
- 5. Should I fill out an application if I got a letter this year saying my children are approved for free price meals?** No, if you received a letter from the school stating your child has been directly certified for free meals, it is not necessary to complete an application for free or reduced meals. Please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call Child Nutrition at (919) 856-2920 if you have questions.
- 6. I get WIC. Can my child(ren) get free meals?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please fill out an application.
- 7. Will the information I give be checked?** Yes, we may ask you to send written proof of your household income and size.
- 8. 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 receiving Food and Nutrition Services (FNS, formerly Food Stamps) or getting TANF or other benefits. If you lose your job, your children may be able to get free or reduced price meals.
- 9. What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application?** You should talk to Child Nutrition officials. You may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Child Nutrition Services, 1551 Rock Quarry Road, Raleigh, NC 27610, (919) 856-2920.
- 10. 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.
- 11. 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. Remember, the number of people in your household can determine whether your child(ren) are eligible for free or reduced price meals. Children who are not enrolled in school should be listed on the application for free or reduced price meals.
- 12. 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 do not if you get it only sometimes.
- 13. We are in the military; do we include our housing allowance as income?** If your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. All other allowances must be included in your gross income.

If you have other questions or need help, call (919) 856-2920.

Sincerely,  
Michele Drevenak

**Privacy Act Statement: This explains how we will use the information you give us.** The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Food and Nutrition Services (FNS, formerly Food Stamps), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We **MAY** share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

**Non-discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.** "In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."