



School Food & Nutrition Services

Free and Reduced Price Meals- Frequently Asked Questions

- ◆ *Free and reduced price meals are available to students whose households qualify under federal standards.*
- ◆ *Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is \$.30 for breakfast and \$.40 for lunch.*
- ◆ *You can apply for free or reduced price meals online. Complete and submit the application from the school division's website. If you wish to complete a traditional paper application you can obtain a copy from your child's school office or from the School Food and Nutrition Services Office at 703.791.7319.*
- ◆ *Here are answers to questions you may have about applying.*

1. Who can get free or reduced price meals? *Children in households getting Food Stamps or TANF and most foster children can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, if your household income is within the limits of the Federal Income Guidelines, your children can get free or reduced price meals.*

2. Will the information I give be checked? *A certain percentage of applicants will be asked to send written proof of the information they provided. The selection of applicants for this verification is done at random.*

3. Do I need to fill out an application for each child? *No. Use one Free and Reduced Price Meal application for all students in your household.*

4. If I don't qualify now, may I apply again later? *Yes. You may apply any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start getting Food Stamps or TANF.*

5. Do I have to fill out an application for Free and Reduced Price Meals every year if I qualified for meal assistance last year? *Yes. Federal Guidelines require a new application be completed every year.*

6. How long will the approval process take? *Applications will be reviewed and an eligibility determination made within ten working days of the receipt of the application. Electronic applications are approved much faster than the paper applications. Meals begin when the application is approved.*

7. I received information that one of my children qualified for meal assistance but I did not hear about the others. Should I assume they will be approved? *No. Sometimes one child is approved directly through records received from Social Services, but not the others. Call School Food and Nutrition Services at 703.791.7314 to get others approved.*

8. Will my children be treated differently if they receive free or reduced price meals? *No. This information is confidential.*

9. Who should I include as members of my household? *To apply for free or reduced priced meals based on household income, you must include all adults and children who reside in your household or economic unit. If two families reside in the same house but maintain separate finances they are counted separately for this process.*

10. May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. Citizen? *Yes. You do not have to be a U.S. Citizen to receive free or reduced priced meals.*