

## 2019-2020 Thornton Academy Free Meal Program Eligibility and Important Information

Thornton Academy offers a free breakfast and lunch meal program for all eligible students. Unlike other schools, Thornton Academy does not accept Federal or State funding for our free meal program. In order to qualify for the free meal program, you must complete and submit a Free Meal Program Application to Thornton Academy Finance Department as soon as possible but **no later than September 15, 2019** and meet the following U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines:

- Households getting food stamps (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or benefits from the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).
- State Agency Clients **OR**
- Total household income is the same or below the amount of the Income Guidelines chart. *School officials may verify (check) the information.*

### 2019-2020 Income Guidelines Chart

Household Size	Monthly Income	Household Size	Monthly Income
1	\$ 1,926	5	\$ 4,652
2	\$2,607	6	\$ 5,333
3	\$ 3,289	7	\$ 6,015
4	\$ 3,970	8	\$ 6,696

Add \$682 for each additional household member

If you are applying for the free meal program for more than one Thornton Academy student, you only need to submit one application.

All outstanding balances on student debit accounts must be settled prior to approval of the free meal program application. Please contact Cathy Burke (207) 282-3361 ext. 4431 [cathy.burke@thorntonacademy.org](mailto:cathy.burke@thorntonacademy.org) if you are unsure if your child/children currently have a negative balance.

Students enrolled in the free meal program are only allowed to receive approved free meal program options at no cost. Other non-approved items (i.e. chicken combo, chips, cookies, bottled drinks other than Poland Spring water) must be paid for with cash or by having a positive balance to cover all of the non-approved items on their My Kids Spending (MKS) debit account.

Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, all students (including free meal program recipients) will be required to create a MKS debit account. By having an MKS debit account, you will be able to view all purchases, add money to accounts and receive emails notifying you when the account balance is low and needs replenishment. Parents/guardians of free meal program recipients are not required to add funds to the student's MKS account, however, if the student chooses options that are not approved items, and they do not have cash to purchase the items, they will be asked to put the items back.

Thornton Academy and Flik Dining Services staff are committed to offering free nutritional meals to all eligible students while also maintaining confidentiality. To avoid confusion and/or embarrassment at the cash register, please review the below Free Approved Breakfast and Lunch Options with your child. All approved options will also be identified on the cafeteria menu with a star or other easily identifiable symbol.

#### Approved Breakfast Options:

- **Muffin**, Fruit (\*Orange, \*Apple or \*Banana), Small Milk or Bottled Poland Spring Water
- **Breakfast Sandwich**, \*Fruit, Small Milk or Bottled Poland Spring Water
- **Breakfast Burrito**, \*Fruit, Small Milk or Bottled Poland Spring Water

#### Approved Lunch Options:

- **FLIK Live Deli Station\*\*** (sandwich or wrap of the day), Small Bag of Chips, Small Milk or Bottled Poland Spring Water
- **Entrée Station\*\*** (hot entrée of the day includes protein, vegetable and starch), Small Milk or Bottled Poland Spring Water
- **Grab n Go Salad(does not include salad bar)/Assortment\*\*** (i.e. Chef, Grilled Chicken, Mediterranean etc.), Small Milk or Bottled Poland Spring Water

\*\*All daily menu choices can be viewed at [myschooldining.com](http://myschooldining.com)