

# 2022-23 HOUSEHOLD APPLICATION/MEAL BENEFIT

## Questions/Answers

### Free/Reduced Application Question/Answers

1. I was free or reduced last school year. Do I need to fill out a new household application for this school year? Yes, you have 30 days into the new school year to submit a New Yearly Household application. Every year you must submit a new household application unless you've received a letter from the Food Service Director stating you were Directly Certified Free for the new school year.
2. What happens if I don't submit a new application within those 30 days? On day 31 You will lose the meal benefits you had last school year and will start paying full price for school meals.
3. Do I need to fill out application? Yes, you must complete the entire application along with a signature and SS#, list everyone in household and their gross income. (Gross income is income before taxes).
4. I've been paying full price for meals and now have been approved free or reduced but owe money for past meals. Do I still need to pay for past meals since I was just approved? Yes. We Cannot back date or refund meals so all debt must be paid in full.
5. I received a letter from the Food Service Director notifying me that my children have been approved Free through Direct Certification, can I decline benefits? Yes, on the letter you received, please fill out the bottom portion and return to Food Service Director or school secretary. Once notification is received by the Food Service Director benefits will be taken off.
6. I have a Foster child who is receiving free meal benefits do all my children qualify for Free meal benefits? No, only the Foster child. If you want to see if your other children qualify you must fill out the household application.
7. Do I still need to fill out a Household application if we are Directly Certified free for the new school year? No, once you have been approved free through Direct Certification and have received the approval letter you will not need to do anything else.
8. I received an approval letter and not all my children are listed. Please contact the Food Service Director or school secretary ASAP.

9. I filled out the household application online or by paper form, how long does it take for the approval process? It could take up to 10 days but I normally process applications daily. You should receive a letter by email informing you of your meal benefits. If you don't hear from the Food Service Director after a week please contact me ASAP. May not have received application.
  
10. Do I still need to send money for lunches even though I just filled out an application? Yes, until you have been notified by the Food Service Director of your meal benefits you will need send lunch money. Any charged meals before approval of benefits will need to be paid. We cannot back date or refund meals.
  
11. We were approved with having free or reduced meal benefits so why does my son or daughter have a negative lunch account balance? It could be something they purchased extra this year or last year and was never paid. It could also be meals charged before they were approved for free or reduced benefits. We cannot back date or refund meals and all ala carte items are purchased at full price. All debts must be paid.

## **Approved Free/ Reduced Meal Questions/Answers**

1. **Approved Free Meal Benefits:** Student will receive one complete free meal.

\*\* Ala carte food items, extra milk, extra entrée etc. bottled water etc. are **Not** included with your free meal benefits. All extra food/drink items will be purchased at full price. Please bring money if you would like to purchase ala carte items or anything extra.

2. **Reduced Meal Benefits:** Students will pay .40 per day for their complete meal.

\*\* Ala carte food items, extra milk, extra entrée, bottled water or extra sides etc. are not included in your reduced meal benefits. All extra food/drink items will be purchased at full price. Please bring money if you would like to purchase ala carte items or anything extra.

3. If student has been approved for Free meal benefits and brings a cold lunch from home do they get a free milk? No, students bringing a cold lunch from home will need to pay .45 for a milk or bring a drink from home.

\*\*Free/Reduced meal benefits only apply to those students receiving a complete school meal. We do not have a free milk program.

\*\*If you are a paying student or a Free/Reduced student, Bottled water cannot be substituted for milk with his or her meal. Bottled water is only sold as Ala Carte item.

Updated- 6/28/2022