Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Souderton Area School District** offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs **\$0.00**; lunch costs **\$0.00** (**Elementary**); **\$0.00** (**Middle School**); and **\$0.00** (**High School**). Your child(ren) may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals. Reduced-price is **\$0.00** for breakfast and **\$0.00** for lunch. This packet includes an application for free and reduced-price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help with the application process.

If you have received a **NOTICE OF DIRECT CERTIFICATION** letter for free meals, **do not** complete the application. But **do** let the school know if any children in your household are not listed on the **NOTICE OF DIRECT CERTIFICATION** letter received.

- 1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS OR SPECIAL MILK?
 - All children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly the Food Stamp Program) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits are eligible for free meals.
 - Foster children who are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
 - Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
 - Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
 - Children may receive free or reduced-price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income
 Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced-price meals if your household income falls at or
 below the limits on this chart.

Income Eligibility Reduced-Price Guidelines—July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022									
Family Size	Annually	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly				
1	\$23,828	1,986	993	917	459				
2	32,227	2,686	1,343	1,240	620				
3	40,626	3,386	1,693	1,563	782				
4	49,025	4,086	2,043	1,886	943				
5	57,424	4,786	2,393	2,209	1,105				
6	65,823	5,486	2,743	2,532	1,266				
7	74,222	6,186	3,093	2,855	1,428				
8	82,621	6,886	3,443	3,178	1,589				
For each additional family member add:									
	8,399	700	350	324	162				

- 2. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY? Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and have not been told your children will get free meals, call or e-mail Romy L. Tressler, Home and School Visitor, 215-723-6061 ext. 10234.
- 3. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. Use one Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Application for all students in your household. An application that is not complete cannot be approved, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: Souderton Area School District, Food Service Department, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA 18964; 215-723-6061 ext. 10213.
- 4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? No, but read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification letter, contact Souderton Area School District, Food Service Department, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA 18964; 215-723-6061 ext. 10213 or e-mail: detertine@soudertonsd.org. immediately.
- 5. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? Yes! You are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application if you are able. The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit www.myschoolapps.com or the PA Department of Human Services website at www.compass.state.pa.us.

- 6. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first 30 operating school days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
- 7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC <u>may</u> be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Send in an application.
- 8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
- 9. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER? Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and/or reduced-price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
- 10. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION? You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: **Brian Pawling, Director of Business Affairs, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA 18964; 215-723-6061 ext. 10210; e-mail:** bpawling@soudertonsd.org.
- 11. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced-price meals.
- 12. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you <u>normally</u> receive. For example, if you normally make \$1,000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1,000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
- 13. WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT? Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application, or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will <u>also</u> be counted as zeroes. Be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you <u>meant</u> to do so.
- 14. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY? Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, or receive Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance payments, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.
- 15. WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY? List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper and attach it to your application. Contact Souderton Area School District, Food Service Department, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA 18964; 215-723-6061 ext. 10213 or e-mail: department, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA 18964; 215-723-6061 ext. 10213 or e-mail: decay:default-application.
- 16. 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, visit <u>www.compass.state.pa.us</u>, contact your local county assistance office, or call 1-800-692-7462

If you have other questions or need help, call 215-723-6061 ext. 10213.

Sincerely,

Souderton Area School District Food Service Department

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination <u>Complaint Form</u>, (AD-3027) found online at, https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint, and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

(2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

ATTENTION: If you speak Spanish, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Contact your child's school. ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Comuníquese con la escuela de su niño.

HOW TO APPLY FOR FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS or SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM

Use these instructions to help fill out the application for free or reduced-price school meals. Submit only one application per household, even if your children attend more than one school in Souderton Area School District. The application must be filled out completely to certify your children for free or reduced-price school meals. Follow these instructions in order! Each step of the instructions is the same as the steps on the application. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, contact Souderton Area School District, Food Service Department, 215-723-6061 ext. 10213; or e-mail: dderstine@soudertonsd.org.

USE A PEN (NOT PENCIL) WHEN FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION AND DO YOUR BEST TO PRINT CLEARLY.

STEP 1: LIST ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS WHO ARE INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND STUDENTS UP TO AND INCLUDING GRADE 12

Tell us how many infants, children, and school students live in your household. They do NOT have to be related to you to be a part of your household.

Who should I list here? When filling out this section, include ALL members in your household who are:

- Children age 18 or under AND are supported with the household's income;
- In your care under a foster arrangement, or qualify as homeless, migrant, or runaway youth;
- Students attending Souderton Area School District, <u>regardless of age.</u>

A) List each child's name. Print each child's name. Use one line of the application for each child. When printing names, write one letter in each box. Stop if you run out of space. If there are more children present than lines on the application, attach a second piece of paper with all required information for the additional children.

B) Is the child a student at Souderton Area School District? Mark 'Yes' or 'No' under the column titled "Student" to tell us which children attend Souderton Area School District. If you marked 'Yes,' write the grade level of the student in the 'Grade' column to the left.

C) Do you have any foster children? If any children listed are foster children, mark the "Foster Child" box next to the child's name. If you are ONLY applying for foster children, after finishing STEP 1, go to STEP 4.

Foster children who live with you may count as members of your household and should be listed on

your application. If you are applying for both foster

listed in this section meets this description, mark the "Homeless, Migrant, Runaway" box next to the child's name and complete all steps of the application.

D) Are any children homeless, migrant,

or runaway? If you believe any child

STEP 2: DO ANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN SNAP or TANF?

If anyone in your household (including you) currently participates in one or more of the assistance programs listed below, your children are eligible for free school meals:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

A) If no one in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:

Leave STEP 2 blank and go to STEP 3.

B) If anyone in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:

and non-foster children, go to step 3.

- Write a case number for SNAP or TANF. You only need to provide one case number. If you participate in one of these programs and do not know your case number, contact: 1-877-395-8930 or your local assistance office.
- Go to STEP 4.

STEP 3: REPORT INCOME FOR ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

How do I report my income?

- Use the charts titled "Sources of Income for Adults" and "Sources of Income for Children" printed on the back side of the application form to determine if your household has income to report.
- Report all amounts in GROSS INCOME ONLY. Report all income in whole dollars. Do not include cents.
 - Gross income is the total income received before taxes.

- o Many people think of income as the amount they "take home" and not the total "gross" amount. Make sure that the income you report on this application has NOT been reduced to pay for taxes, insurance premiums, or any other amounts taken from your pay.
- Write a "0" in any fields where there is no income to report. Any income fields left empty or blank will also be counted as a zero. If you write '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. If local officials suspect that your household income was reported incorrectly, your application will be investigated.
- Mark how often each type of income is received, using the check boxes to the right of each field.

3.A. REPORT INCOME EARNED BY CHILDREN

A) Report all income earned or received by children. Report the combined gross income for ALL children listed in STEP 1 in your household in the box marked "Child Income." Only count foster children's income if you are applying for them together with the rest of your household.

What is Child Income? Child income is money received from outside your household that is paid DIRECTLY to your children. Many households do not have any child income.

3.B. REPORT INCOME EARNED BY ADULTS

Who should I list here?

- When filling out this section, include ALL adult members in your household who are living with you and share income and expenses, even if they are not related and even if they do not receive income of their own.
- Do NOT include:
 - People who live with you but are not supported by your household's income AND do not contribute income to your household.
 - Infants, Children, and Students already listed in STEP 1.

B) List adult household members'				
names. Print the name of each				
household member in the boxes marked				
"Names of Adult Household Members				
(First and Last)." Do not list any				
household members you listed in STEP 1 .				
If a child listed in STEP 1 has income,				
follow the instructions in STEP 3, part A.				

C) Report earnings from work. Report all income from work in the "Earnings from Work" field on the application. This is usually the money received from working at jobs. If you are a self-employed business or farm owner, you will report your net income.

What if I am self-employed? Report income from that work as a net amount. This is calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of your business from its gross receipts or revenue.

D) Report income from public assistance/child support/alimony. Report all income that applies in the "Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony" field on the application. Do not report the cash value of any public assistance benefits NOT listed on the chart. If income is received from child support or alimony, only report court-ordered payments. Informal but regular payments should be reported as "other" income in the next part.

E) Report income from pensions/ retirement/all other income. Report all income that applies in the "Pensions/ Retirement/All Other Income" field on the application. **F)** Report total household size. Enter the total number of household members in the field "Total Household Members (Children and Adults)". This number MUST be equal to the number of household members listed in **STEP 1** and **STEP 3**. If there are any members of your household that you have not listed on the application, go back and add them. It is very important to list all household members, as the size of your household affects your eligibility for free and reduced-price meals.

G) Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number. An adult household member must enter the last four digits of their Social Security Number in the space provided. You are eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social Security Number. If no adult household members have a Social Security Number, leave this space blank and mark the box to the right labeled "Check if no SSN."

STEP 4: CONTACT INFORMATION AND ADULT SIGNATURE

All applications must be signed by an adult member of the household. By signing the application, that household member is promising that all information has been truthfully and completely reported. Before completing this section, also make sure you have read the privacy and civil rights statements on the back of the application.

A) Provide your contact information. Write your current address in the fields provided if this information is available. If you have no permanent address, this does not make your children ineligible for free or reduced-price school meals. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.

B) Print and sign your name. Print the name of the adult signing the application and that person signs in the box "Signature of adult."

C) Write today's date. In the space provided, write today's date in the box.

D) Share children's racial and ethnic identities (optional). On the back of the application, we ask you to share information about your children's race and ethnicity. This field is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals.

SIEF I LIST ALL HOL	isenoid Members who are infants, child	ren, and stu	idents	up to and includ	aing grade 12	2 (11 IIIOI	e spaces	are req	uirea	TOT AUGIL	onal na	mes, attacn	another	sneet c	л раре	:1 <i>)</i>
Definition of Household	Child's First Name		МІ	Child's Last Na	ıme							Grade Enter HS for Head Start	Stude Yes	nt? No	Foste Child	
Member: "Anyone who is living with you and shares income and expenses, even																
if not related."															Pris [
Children in Foster care and children who meet the														The state of the s		
definition of Homeless , Migrant , or Runaway are eligible for free meals. Read															5	
How to Apply for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals for more information.																
	ashald Mambara (including you) aurron	the martining	40 in a	no or more of th	o following (an intern		ma. Ch	IAD a	- TANES						
SIEF 2 Do any Hou	sehold Members (including you) curren									ase Num	oer:					
	If NO > Go to STEP 3. If Y	ES > Write a	case n	umber here, then g	go to STEP 4 <u>(</u>	Do not co	mplete ST	<u>EP 3</u>)		Write only o	ne nine (9) digit case num	ber in this s	pace.	_	
STEP 3 Report Incom	e for ALL Household Members (Skip this	step if you a	nswer	ed 'Yes' to STEP	2)											
	A. Child Income Sometimes children in the household earn or	eceive income	. Includ	e the TOTAL incom	e received by a	dl		Γ	Child inco	ome	Weekly B	How often? -Weekly 2x Month	Monthly			
	Household Members listed in STEP 1 here.							\$			0	0 0	0			
Are you unsure what	B. All Adult Household Members (included List all Household Members not listed in STER	1 (including y	,	even if they do not	receive income	. For each	n Househol	d Membe	er listed	, if they do	receive ir	ncome, report t	otal gross	income /	(before t	axes)
income to include here? Flip the page and review	for each source in whole dollars (no cents) on If no income is received from any source,	•	u enter	'0' or leave any fie	elds blank, you	are certi	fying (pror	nising) t			come to	report.				- 0
the charts titled "Sources of Income" for	Name of Adult Household Members (First and Last)	Earnings from	m Work	How ofte		Su	iblic Assistance/Chilo ipport/Alimony			v often? Bi-Weekly 2x M	onth Monthly	Pensions/Ret All Other Inco	me		How often	Month Mont
more information. The "Sources of		\$		Weekly Bi-Weekly	2x Month Monthly	Annual \$			0	0 0	0	\$		O (O (
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chart will help you with the All Adult Household Members section.		\$			0 0				0	0 0) ()	\$		0		
			ite of Co	aial Saaveitu Normbar (CCNI) of							_				
	Total Household Members (Children and Adults)	-		cial Security Number (or Other Adult Househ		X	X X	XX			С	heck if no SSN				
STEP 4 Contact Info	ormation and Adult Signature MAIL	. COMPLETE	ED FO	RM TO YOUR C	HILD'S SCHO	OOL										
	on on this application is true and that all income is repor lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under appli				connection with th	e receipt of	Federal fund	ls, and tha	t school	officials may	verify (che	ck) the information	on. I am awa	re that if I	purposely	y give
Street Address (if available)	Apt #	City			State	-	Zip		D	aytime Pho	ne and E	mail (optional)				

Today's Date

Signature of Adult

Printed Name of Adult Signing the Form

INSTRUCTIONS Sources of Income

Sources of Income for Children					
Sources of Child Income	Example(s)				
- Earnings from work	- A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages				
- Social Security • Disability Payments	- A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits				
Survivor's Benefits	- A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits				
- Income from person outside the household	- A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money				
- Income from any other source	- A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust				

Earnings from Work	Public Assistance / Alimony / Child Support	Pensions / Retirement / All Other Income
- Gross Salary, wages, cash bonuses - Net income from self-employment (farm or business) * Reporting Annual Income is allowable for seasonal or self-employment If you are in the U.S. Military: - Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances) - Allowances for off-base	- Unemployment benefits - Worker's compensation - Supplemental Security Income (SSI) - Cash assistance from State or local government - Alimony payments - Child support payments - Veteran's benefits - Strike benefits	- Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits) - Private pensions or disability benefits - Regular income from trusts or estates - Annuities - Investment income - Earned interest - Regular cash payments from outside household

OPTIONAL Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities

Ethnicity (check one):

we are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and neips to make sure we are fully serving our community.
Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals.

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 last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), 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

Hispanic or Latino Not Hispanic or Latino

Race (check one or more): American Indian or Alaskan Native Asian Black or African American

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

☐ White

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

fax: (202) 690-7442; or email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

* All Household Applications must be returned to your child's school for processing.

Do not fill out	For School Use Only			
	Annual Income Conv	sion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 Weeks x 26, Twice A Month x	24, Monthly x 12	
Total Income:	Per: ☐ Week, ☐ Every 2 Weeks, ☐ Twice A Month, ☐ Monthly, ☐ Yearly,	usehold Size: Date Withdrawn:		
Eligibility: □ Free	□ Reduced □ Denied Reason: □ □ Categoric	ly Eligible Other Source Categorically Eligible	Determining Official's Signature:	Date:
Confirming Official's Signature	e (cannot be the Determining Official):Date:	Signature of School Employee Completing	Verification:	Date: