

2023-2024 PUBLIC MEDIA RELEASE

Beaufort County School District today announced its policy for free and reduced-price meals for children served in schools under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. Local school officials have adopted the following household size and income criteria for determining eligibility:

Household Size and Income Guidelines for Free Meals or Reduced-Price Meals Effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

Income Eligibility Guidelines Effective from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024										
Household size	REDUCED PRICE MEALS – 185%					FREE MEALS – 130%				
	Annual	Monthly	Twice per month	Every two weeks	Weekly	Annual	Monthly	Twice per month	Every two weeks	Weekly
1	26,973	2,248	1,124	1,038	519	18,954	1,580	790	729	365
2	36,482	3,041	1,521	1,404	702	25,636	2,137	1,069	986	493
3	45,991	3,833	1,917	1,769	885	32,318	2,694	1,347	1,243	622
4	55,500	4,625	2,313	2,135	1,068	39,000	3,250	1,625	1,500	750
5	65,009	5,418	2,709	2,501	1,251	45,682	3,807	1,904	1,757	879
6	74,518	6,210	3,105	2,867	1,434	52,364	4,364	2,182	2,014	1,007
7	84,027	7,003	3,502	3,232	1,616	59,046	4,921	2,461	2,271	1,136
8	93,536	7,795	3,898	3,598	1,799	65,728	5,478	2,739	2,528	1,264
For each additional family member, add	9,509	793	397	366	183	6,682	557	279	257	129

Children from families whose income is at or below the levels shown may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

For school officials to determine eligibility, the household must provide the following information on the application: (1) A SNAP or TANF case number certifying the household is currently eligible for either of these assistance programs and an adult household member signature or (2) names of all household members, the name and last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member signing the application form, current income by source for each household member and a signature of an adult household member certifying that the information provided is correct.

Foster children may also be eligible for these benefits regardless of household income. If a household has foster children living with them and the household has not previously been notified by the School District that their foster children have been directly certified for free meals, the household should include and count the foster children (including personal income earned by the foster children) on the household application form with other non-foster children.

Under the provisions of the policy Pilar Renteria will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the reviewing official may wish to discuss the decision with the reviewer on an informal basis. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal may make a request either orally or in writing to Sheila Burtz, whose address is: P.O. Box 755, Beaufort, SC 29901. The hearing procedures are outlined in the policy.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if household size changes, the household should contact the school to file a meal application. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for free or reduced-price meals if the household income falls at or below the levels shown above. A complete copy of the policy is on file in each school and in the office of the District Superintendent where any interested party may review it.

This release was sent to the following newspapers: Island Packet/Beaufort Gazette, Ladys Island News, Bluffton Today, Lowcountry Weekly, Hilton Head Monthly, The Bluffton Sun, and La Isla Magazine.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant’s name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted 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: (833)256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.