

2023-2024 APPLICATION PACKET FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

How to Apply for Free and Reduced Price School Meals.

Please use these instructions to help you fill out the application for free or reduced price school meals. You only need to submit one application per household, even if your children attend more than one school in USD 470. The application must be filled out completely to certify your children for free or reduced price school meals. Please follow these instructions in order! Each step of the instructions is the same as the steps on your application. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please contact Sue McGowan, 620-441-2000, sue.mcgowan@usd470.com.

PLEASE USE A PEN (NOT A 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, please 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 USD 470, regardless of age.

A) List each child's name. Print each child's name. Use one line of the application for each child. 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 USD 470? Mark 'Yes' or 'No' under the column titled "Student" to tell us which children attend USD 470. If you marked 'Yes,' write the name of the school and the grade level of the student in the 'School' and 'Grade' columns to the right.	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 and non-foster children, go to step 3.	D) Are any children homeless, migrant, or runaway? If you believe any child 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.
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STEP 2: DO ANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN FOOD ASSISTANCE, TAF, OR FDIPIR?

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:

• Food Assistance (FA). • Temporary Assistance for Families (TAF).	• The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).
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: • Write a case number for FA, TAF, or FDIPIR. You only need to provide one case number. If you participate in one of these programs and do not know your case number, contact Kansas Department for Children and Families. • 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.
 - 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.			
<i>What is Child Income?</i> 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, please include ALL adult members in your household who are living with you and share income and expenses, <u>even if they are not related and even if they do not receive income of their own.</u> 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)." <u>Do not list any household members you listed in STEP 1.</u> 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. See detailed instructions on the back of the application. 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. <u>Do not report the cash value of any public assistance benefits NOT listed on the chart.</u> 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			
<i>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, please also make sure you have read the privacy and civil rights statements on the back of the application.</i>			
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 and write today's date. Print the name of the adult signing the application and that person signs in the box "Signature of adult."	C) Mail Completed Form to: USD 470, 2545 Greenway, Arkansas City, KS 67005	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.

Complete one application per household (use a pen not a pencil). <https://schoolmealsapp.ksde.org/Home/welcome/D0470>

List ALL Household Members who are infants, children, and students up to and including grade 12 (if more spaces are required for additional names, attach another sheet of paper)

Children in Foster care and children who meet the definition of Homeless,

eligible for free meals. Read How to Apply for Free and Reduced Price School Meals for more information.

STEP 2

Do any Household Members (including you) currently participate in one or more of the following assistance programs: Food Assistance, TAF, or FDIPIR?

Report Income for ALL Household Members (Skip this step if you answered 'Yes' to STEP 2)

If NO > Go to STEP 3.

If YES > Write a case number here then go to STEP 4 (Do not complete STEP 3)

Case Number:

Write only one case number in this space

Sometimes children in the household earn or receive income. Please include the TOTAL income received by all Household Members listed in STEP 1 here.

Child Income	Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly
\$				

For each source in whole dollars (no cents) only. If they do not receive income from any source, write "0". If you enter "0" or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report from each source. Do not include income received from a source if it is not used in U.S. tax law (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. For each Household Member listed, if they do receive income, report total gross income (before taxes) How often? How about?

Name of Adult Household Members (First and Last)	How often?				Public Assistance/ Child Support/Alimony	How often?				Pensions/Retirement/ All Other Income	How often?							
	Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly		Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly			Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly			
	\$				\$				\$									
	\$				\$				\$									
	\$				\$				\$									
	\$				\$				\$									
	\$				\$				\$									

Total Household Members

Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of

Primary Wage Earner or Other Adult Household Member

X

X

X

X

Check if no SSN

Contact information and adult signature. Mail completed form to: 2545 Greenway, Arkansas City, KS 67005

I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal funds, and that school officials may verify (check) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws."

Street Address (if available)	Apt #	City	State	Zip	Daytime Phone and Email (optional)
Printed name of adult signing the form					Today's date

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	• A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits
• Disability Payments	• A Parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits
• Survivor's Benefits	• A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money
• Income from person outside the household	• A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust
• Income from any other source	

Income from Self Employment: Self-employed persons may use income tax records for the preceding calendar year as a base to project the current year's net income, unless the current monthly income provides a more accurate measure. Report income derived from the business venture less operating costs incurred in the generation of that income. Deductions for personal expenses such as interest on home payments, medical expenses, and other similar non-business deductions are not allowed in reducing gross business income. Additional income from other kinds of employment must be treated as separate and apart from the income generated or lost from your business venture. For example, if you operated a business at a net loss, but held additional employment for which a salary was received, the income for purposes of applying for reduced price or free meals would be the income from the salary only. The loss from the business cannot be deducted from a positive income earned in other employment.

OPTIONAL Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities

We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps 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. If you do not select race or ethnicity, one will be selected for you based on visual observation.

Ethnicity (check one): ☐ Hispanic or Latino ☐ Not Hispanic or Latino ☐ Asian
Race (check one or more): ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native

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 primary wage earner or other adult household member who signs the application. The social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Food Assistance (FA) Temporary Assistance for Families (TAF) 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 program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

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

Do not fill out

For School Use Only – Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Bi-Weekly x 26, Twice a Month x 24, Monthly x 12

☐ Total Income: \$ _____	How Often (Circle One): W BW 2M M Multiples=Yearly	Household Size: _____	Eligibility: ☐ Free OR ☐ Reduced Price OR ☐ Denied
☐ Categorical Eligibility (FA, TAF, FDPIR, Foster)		Notes: _____	
Determining Official's Signature: _____		Notification Date: _____	
Processor's Initials: _____		Review Date: _____	
Confirming Official's Signature (ONLY for applications to be verified): _____			

Sources of Income for Adults

• Salary, wages, cash bonuses	• Unemployment benefits	• Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits)
• Net income from self-employment (farm or business)	• Worker's compensation	• Private pensions or disability benefits
• If you are in the U.S. Military:	• Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	• Regular income from trusts or estates
• Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances)	• Cash assistance from State or local government	• Annuities
• Allowances for off-base housing, food, and clothing	• Alimony payments	• Investment income
	• Child support payments	• Earned interest
	• Veteran's benefits	• Rental income
	• Strike benefits	• Regular cash payments from outside household

For purposes of this application, it is not possible to report a negative income from any business venture. The least income possible is zero (no income). The necessary information for arriving at allowable income from private business operation may be taken from your most recent U.S. Individual Income Tax Return - Form 1040, Schedule 1. Add together the amounts reported on the following lines:

Schedule 1, Line 3	\$ _____	Business income or (Loss)
1040, Line 7	\$ _____	Capital Gain or (Loss)
Schedule 1, Line 4	\$ _____	Other Gains or (Losses)
Schedule 1, Line 5	\$ _____	Rental real estate, royalties, partnerships, S corporations, trusts, etc.
Schedule 1, Line 6	\$ _____	Farm income or (Loss)
TOTAL	\$ _____	Gross Annual Income Before Any Deductions
Computed Monthly Income	\$ _____	Gross Annual Income ÷ 12 = Computed Monthly Income. Report in Step 3.

☐ Black or African American ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander ☐ White

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/ad-3027.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:

(1) mail

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

(2) fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Only use this address if you are filing a complaint of discrimination.

Arkansas City Schools--2545 Greenway, Arkansas City, KS 67005

Consent for Disclosure
Sharing Information with Other Programs

Dear Parent/Guardian:

You do not have to sign or send in this form to get reduced price or free Child Nutrition Program benefits for your children. If you do not sign the Consent for Disclosure, it will not affect eligibility for or participation in the Child Nutrition Programs.

To save you time and effort, information about your children's eligibility for reduced price or free Child Nutrition Program benefits may be shared with other programs for which your children may qualify. For the programs listed below, we must have your permission to share your information.

☐ **Yes, I DO want school officials to share information about my children's eligibility for Child Nutrition Program benefits only with the programs I have checked below.**

☐ Textbook Fees

☐ Student Material Fees--Art, FACS, Technology, AG Ed, Industrial Tech, PLTW

☐ Student Material Fees--locks, towels, class fees, musical instruments

☐ ACT and/or AP testing

If you checked yes to any or all of the boxes above, fill out the form below. Your information will be shared only with the programs you checked.

Child's Name: _____

School: _____

Child's Name: _____

School: _____

Child's Name: _____

School: _____

Child's Name: _____

School: _____

Child's Name: _____

School: _____

Child's Name: _____

School: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

For more information, you may call or e-mail:

School Official's Name: Lori Roths (MS) or Shannon Hills (HS) Phone: 441-2030
(MS) 441-2010(HS) E-Mail: lori.roths@usd470.com shannon.hills @usd470.com

Return this form to the address below by _____.

Address: 400 E Kansas Ave (MS) 1200 W Radio Lane (HS)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.