



## QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Drew Charter School offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$2.50; lunch costs \$4.00. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals. The reduced price is currently \$0 for breakfast and \$0 for lunch. This packet includes an application for free or reduced-price meal benefits and detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

**1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?**

- All children in households receiving GA SNAP, or GA TANF, are eligible for free meals.
- Foster children under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court 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 their 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.

### Reduced-price Eligibility Scale Meals and Snacks

| Household Size | Annual     | Monthly  | Twice Per Month | Every Two Weeks | Weekly   |
|----------------|------------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|
| 1              | \$ 29,526  | \$ 2,461 | \$ 1,231        | \$ 1,136        | \$ 568   |
| 2              | \$ 40,034  | \$ 3,337 | \$ 1,669        | \$ 1,540        | \$ 770   |
| 3              | \$ 50,542  | \$ 4,212 | \$ 2,106        | \$ 1,944        | \$ 972   |
| 4              | \$ 61,050  | \$ 5,088 | \$ 2,544        | \$ 2,349        | \$ 1,175 |
| 5              | \$ 71,558  | \$ 5,964 | \$ 2,982        | \$ 2,753        | \$ 1,377 |
| 6              | \$ 82,066  | \$ 6,839 | \$ 3,420        | \$ 3,157        | \$ 1,579 |
| 7              | \$ 92,574  | \$ 7,715 | \$ 3,858        | \$ 3,561        | \$ 1,781 |
| 8              | \$ 103,082 | \$ 8,591 | \$ 4,296        | \$ 3,965        | \$ 1,983 |

|                                         |            |         |         |         |         |
|-----------------------------------------|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| For each additional family member, add: | + \$10,508 | + \$876 | + \$438 | + \$405 | + \$203 |
|-----------------------------------------|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|

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, please contact the School Nutrition Office at 470-355-1200.
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.* We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information.
4. **SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVE A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS?** No, but please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, please complete a new application.
5. **CAN I APPLY ONLINE?** Yes! You are encouraged to complete an on-line application instead of a paper application if possible. The on-line application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit [MealtimeApps.com](http://MealtimeApps.com) to begin or to learn more about the on-line application process. If you do not have home Internet service or access to a computer please contact the School Parent Liaison to assist you at 470-355-1200 X4353.
6. **MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE?** Yes! You must send in a new application unless we inform you your child is eligible for the new school year in writing via email. If you do not send in a new application that the school approves or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for meals. Your status is not retroactive so please re-apply as soon as possible.
7. **I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please complete an application on-line at [MealtimeApps.com](http://MealtimeApps.com).
8. **WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?** Yes. We 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 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 emailing: Julie Koriakin at 470-355-1200 or [Julie.koriakin@drewcharterschool.org](mailto:Julie.koriakin@drewcharterschool.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 normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month but missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 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, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant 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, 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 the front office of your child's Drew Charter School campus to receive a second application.
16. **MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR?** To find out how to apply for GA SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact the Georgia Dept of Human Services at 877-423-4746 or visit [dfcs.georgia.gov](https://dfcs.georgia.gov).

If you have other questions or need help, please call the school directly.

Sincerely,

Drew Charter School