

HOUSEHOLD MEAL BENEFIT APPLICATION 2012-2013

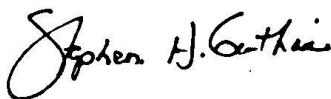
Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Carroll County offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.25/\$1.50; lunch costs \$2.25/\$2.50/\$3.00. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals. Reduced-price is \$0.30 for breakfast and \$0.40 for lunch.

1. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. Complete **one** Free and Reduced-Price Meal Benefit Application for **all** children in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete. Fill out all required information. Return the completed application to your youngest child's school.
2. WHO CAN RECEIVE FREE MEALS? All children in households receiving benefits from the Food Supplement Program (FSP) or Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) can receive free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can receive free meals if your household's gross income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.
3. CAN FOSTER CHILDREN RECEIVE FREE MEALS? Yes. Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are eligible for free meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for free meals regardless of income.
4. CAN HOMELESS, RUNAWAY, AND MIGRANT CHILDREN RECEIVE FREE MEALS? Yes. If you have **not** been told that your child(ren) will receive free school meals this year, complete the application. You may also call your child's school to ask about benefits.
5. WHO CAN RECEIVE REDUCED-PRICE MEALS? Your children can receive low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced-price limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. [See Instructions for Applying.]
6. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? No, you do not need to complete an application. Call 410-751-3040 if you have questions.
7. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT ANOTHER ONE? Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless you were told that your child is eligible for the new school year.
8. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILD(REN) GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please fill out an application.
9. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes, your information may be checked.
10. IF I DO NOT QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER? Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year.
11. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION? You should talk to school officials. You may also ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Dana Falls, Director of Student Services, 125 North Court Street, Westminster, MD 21157. 410-751-3123
12. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be U.S. citizens to qualify for free or reduced-price meals.
13. WHO SHOULD I INCLUDE AS MEMBERS OF MY HOUSEHOLD? Your household includes all those living as one economic unit, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, foster children or friends).
14. 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 you 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.
15. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE INCLUDE OUR HOUSING ALLOWANCE AS INCOME? If you get an off-base housing allowance, it must be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income.
16. MY SPOUSE IS DEPLOYED TO A COMBAT ZONE. IS HER COMBAT PAY COUNTED AS INCOME? No, if the combat pay is received in addition to her basic pay because of her deployment, and it was not received before she was deployed, combat pay is not counted as income.
17. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? For information and referral for the Food Supplement Program, Temporary Cash Assistance, and medical programs call 1-800-332-6347.

If you have other questions or need help, call 410-751-3040.

Sincerely,



Stephen H. Guthrie
Superintendent of Schools