

FREE AND REDUCED MEALS

ELIGIBILITY:

Students may be eligible for free or reduced meals if they meet one of the following criteria:

- Children in households receiving Food Stamps or Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) and most foster children can get free meals regardless of family income.
- Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals.
- Children certified as homeless, runaway or migrant qualify for free meals.
- If the family's total household income is the same or less than the amounts on the Income Chart listed on the Free and Reduced Meal Application, child (ren) may qualify for free and reduced price meals.

APPLICATION:

To apply for Free and Reduced Meals the parent must complete a meal benefit application and return it to the school. To receive a meal benefit application contact the office of the school in which your child is enrolled.

REAPPLICATION:

Applicants may reapply anytime during the school year due to changes in qualifications. Some of these changes are; household size goes up, loss of job, decrease in income, household qualification of Food Stamps or TCA. In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, discrimination is prohibited on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to the USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDE is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

VERIFICATION:

Eligibility may be checked at any time during the school year. School officials may ask applicants to provide documents showing that their child (ren) should get free or reduced price meals.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

School official will use the information on the Free and Reduced Meals Application form to determine if the child (ren) qualify for free or reduced price meals. Also, the name and eligibility status of the child (ren) may be:

- Given to local Title1 officials for allocation and evaluation purposes.
- Used for National Assessment of Educational Progress analyses or other authorized purposes.
- Given to other federal and State education or State health programs. No other use of this information is permitted.

FAIR HEARING:

Applicants may talk to school officials if they do not agree with the school's decision about their child's (children's) meal benefit eligibility or the results of verification. You also may ask for a fair hearing by calling or writing: Dana A. Falls, Director of Student Services, 125 North Court Street, Westminster MD 21157 Phone: 410-751-3123.

NOTE: Homeless and migrant children automatically qualify for free and reduced meals. Therefore a meal benefit application is not required.