

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Southwest Licking Local Schools offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.00; lunch costs \$2.50. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is \$.30 for breakfast and \$.40 for lunch.

- 1. Do I need to fill out an application for each child?** No. Complete the application to apply for free or reduced price meals. 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. **Return the completed application to: Your Child's school or Southwest Licking Local Schools, Food Service Director, 927-A South Street, Pataskala, OH 43062.**
- 2. Who can get free meals?** All children in households receiving benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Ohio Works First (OWF) benefits can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household's gross income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines.
- 3. Can foster children get 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 get free meals?** Yes, children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant qualify for free meals. If you have not been told your children will get free meals, please call 740-927-3941 to see if they qualify.
- 5. Who can get reduced price meals?** Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Eligibility Income Chart shown on this application.
- 6. Should I fill out an application if I received a letter this school year saying my children are approved for free meals?** Please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school at 740-927-3941 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 the school told you 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, we may ask you to send written proof.
- 10. 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.
- 11. 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 writing to: Mr. Forest Yocum, Southwest Licking Local Schools, 927-A South Street, Pataskala, OH 43062.
- 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 a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced price meals.
- 13. Who should I include as members of my household?** You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends) who share income and expenses. You must include yourself and all children who live with you. If you live with other people who are economically independent (for example, people who you do not support, who do not share income with you or your children, and who pay a pro-rated share of expenses), do not include them.
- 14. What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount 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. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
- 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 wasn't received before she was deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.
- 17. Why am I being asked about giving my consent for an instructional fee waiver?** Ohio public schools are required to waive the school instructional fees for children who qualify for free meal benefits. School Food Service personnel must have parent consent to share student meal application if your child(ren) qualify for a fee waiver. If you agree to allow your child(ren)'s meal application to be shared with school officials to see if he/she/they qualifies for a fee waiver then check "yes" in part 5. If you do not wish for that information to be shared, then check "no" in part 5. Answering no to this question will mean your child will not be able to be considered for a fee waiver. Answering this question either way will not change whether your child(ren) will get free or reduced price meals.
- 18. My Family needs more help. Are there other programs we might apply for?** To find out how to apply for Ohio SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 877-852-0010.

If you have other questions or need help, call 740-927-3941
Si necesita ayuda, por favor llame al teléfono: 740-927-3941
Si vous voudriez d'aide, contactez nous au numero : 740-927-3941

Sincerely,

Forest Yocum, Superintendent

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING A HOUSEHOLD MEMBER IS ANY CHILD OR ADULT LIVING WITH YOU

IF YOUR HOUSEHOLD RECEIVES BENEFITS FROM THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) OR OHIO WORKS FIRST (OWF), FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

- Part 1:** List all household members and the school name and school grade level for each child.
- Part 2:** List the 10-digit case number for any household member (including adults) receiving SNAP or OWF benefits.
- Part 3:** Skip this part.
- Part 4:** Skip this part.
- Part 5:** Answer yes or no and sign your name if you would like the application to be checked by school officials to determine if the child(ren) qualifies for a school instructional fee waiver.
- Part 6:** Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are **not** necessary.

IF NO ONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD GETS SNAP OR OWF BENEFITS AND IF ANY CHILD IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS HOMELESS, A MIGRANT OR RUNAWAY, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

- Part 1:** List all household members and the school name and school grade level for each child.
- Part 2:** Skip this part.
- Part 3:** If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway, check the appropriate box and call 740-927-3941.
- Part 4:** Complete only if a child in your household isn't eligible under Part 3. See Instruction for All Other Households.
- Part 5:** Answer yes or no and sign your name if you would like the application to be checked by school officials to determine if the child(ren) qualifies for a school instructional fee waiver.
- Part 6:** Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are **not** necessary if you didn't need to fill in part 4.

IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR A FOSTER CHILD, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

If all children in the household are foster children:

- Part 1:** List all foster children and the school name and school grade level for each child. Check the box indicating the child is a foster child.
- Part 2:** Skip this part.
- Part 3:** Skip this part.
- Part 4:** Skip this part.
- Part 5:** Answer yes or no and sign your name if you would like the application to be checked by school officials to determine if the child(ren) qualifies for a school instructional fee waiver.
- Part 6:** Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are **not** necessary.

If some of the children in the household are foster children:

- Part 1:** List all household members and the school name and school grade level for each child. For any person, including children, with no income, you must check the "No Income" box. Check the box if the child is a foster child.
- Part 2:** If the household does not have a 10-digit SNAP or OWF case number, skip this part.
- Part 3:** If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call 740-927-3941. If not, skip this part.
- Part 4:** Follow these instructions to report total household income from this month or last month.
- **Box 1—Name:** List all household members with income.
 - **Box 2 —Gross Income and How Often It Was Received:** For each household member, list each type of income received for the month. Check the box to tell us how often the person receives the income—weekly, every other week, twice a month, or monthly. For earnings, be sure to list the **gross income**, not the take-home pay. Gross income is the amount earned *before* taxes and other deductions. You should be able to find it on your pay stub or your boss can tell you. For other income, list the amount and check the box to tell us how often each person got for the month from welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's benefits (VA benefits), and disability benefits. Under *All Other Income*, list Worker's Compensation, unemployment or strike benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, and any other income. Do not include income from SNAP, FDPIR, WIC, Federal education benefits and foster payments received by the family from the placing agency. For **ONLY** the self-employed, under *Earnings from Work*, report income after expenses. This is for your business, farm, or rental property. If you are in the Military Privatized Housing Initiative or get combat pay, do not include these allowances as income.
- Part 5:** Answer yes or no and sign your name if you would like the application to be checked by school officials to determine if the child(ren) qualifies for a school instructional fee waiver.
- Part 6:** Adult household member must sign the form and list the last four digits of their Social Security Number (or mark the box if s/he doesn't have one).

ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS, INCLUDING WIC HOUSEHOLDS, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

Part 1: List all household members and the school name and school grade level for each child. For any person, including children, with no income, you must check the “No Income Box”.

Part 2: If the household does not have a 10-digit SNAP or OWF case number, skip this part.

Part 3: If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call 740-927-3491. If not, skip this part.

Part 4: Follow these instructions to report total household income from this month or last month.

- **Box 1–Name:** List all household members with income.
- **Box 2 –Gross Income and How Often It Was Received:** For each household member, list each type of income received for the month. Check the box to tell us how often the person receives the income—weekly, every other week, twice a month, or monthly. For earnings, be sure to list the **gross income**, not the take-home pay. Gross income is the amount earned *before* taxes and other deductions. You should be able to find it on your pay stub or your boss can tell you. For other income, list the amount and check the box to tell us how often each person got for the month from welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran’s benefits (VA benefits), and disability benefits. Under *All Other Income*, list Worker’s Compensation, unemployment or strike benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, and any other income. Do not include income from SNAP, FDPIR, WIC, Federal education benefits and foster payments received by the family from the placing agency. For **ONLY** the self-employed, under *Earnings from Work*, report income after expenses. This is for your business, farm, or rental property. If you are in the Military Privatized Housing Initiative or get combat pay, do not include these allowances as income.

Part 5: Answer yes or no and sign your name if you would like the application to be checked by school officials to determine if the child(ren) qualifies for a school instructional fee waiver.

Part 6: An adult household member must sign the form and list the last four digits of his or her Social Security Number (or mark the box if s/he doesn’t have one).

| INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|---------|--------|
| Household size | Yearly | Monthly | Weekly |
| 1 | 20,147 | 1,679 | 388 |
| 2 | 27,214 | 2,268 | 524 |
| 3 | 34,281 | 2,857 | 660 |
| 4 | 41,348 | 3,446 | 796 |
| 5 | 48,415 | 4,035 | 932 |
| 6 | 55,482 | 4,624 | 1,067 |
| 7 | 62,549 | 5,213 | 1,203 |
| 8 | 69,616 | 5,802 | 1,339 |
| Each additional person: | 7,067 | 589 | 136 |

Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

Privacy Act Statement: This explains how we will use the information you give us.

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 social security number of the 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 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Ohio Works First (OWF) 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

An adult household member must sign the application. **If Part 4 is completed, the adult signing the form must also list the last four digits of his or her Social Security Number or mark the "I do not have a Social Security Number" box.** (See Privacy Act Statement on the back of this page.)
I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the school will get Federal funds based on the information I give. I understand that school officials may verify (check) the information. I understand that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted.

Sign here: X _____ Print name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Last four digits of your Social Security Number: _____ I do not have a Social Security Number

SHARING INFORMATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

To save you time and effort, the information you gave on your Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application may be shared with other programs for which your children may qualify. **For the following programs, we must have your permission to share your information. Sending in this form will not change whether your children get free or reduced price meals.**

No! I **DO NOT** want information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application shared with any of these programs.

Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with Waiver of School Instructional Fees.

Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with Waiver for Pay to Participate Fees.

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: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

For more information, you may call the Food Service Director at 740-927-3941
**Return this form to: Students School or mail to Southwest Licking Local Schools,
927-A South Street, Pataskala, OH 43062**