



Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our school provides healthy meals each day lunch costs **\$2.25**

Your children may qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Reduced price is \$.40 for lunch. To apply for free or reduced-price school meals, complete the enclosed Application for Educational Benefits following the enclosed instructions. This also helps our school qualify for additional education funds and discounts.

Return your completed Application for Educational Benefits to: Tom Zellmer

Who can get free or reduced-price meals? Children in households participating in Food Support (Stamps), Minnesota Family Investment Plan (MFIP), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) and most foster children can get free school meals without reporting household income. Also, children can get free or reduced-price meals if their household income is within the income shown for the household size. An application cannot be approved if any required information is missing.

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 fill out an application.

Should I fill out an application if I got a letter this school year saying my children were “directly certified” for free meals? Do not fill out an application if all of your children have been directly certified for free school meals based on data from the Minnesota Department of Human Services. If only some of your children were directly certified, you can fill out an application for your children who were not directly certified.

Will the information I give be checked? Yes, we may ask you to send written proof.

If I don't qualify now, may I apply later? Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your income goes down, household size goes up or if you start getting Food Support (Stamps), MFIP, or FDPIR benefits.

May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen? Yes. You or your children do not have to be U.S. citizens for your children to qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

Do I need to provide my Social Security number? When household income is reported on an application, the National School Lunch Act allows meal benefits to be approved only if the person signing the application provides his/her Social Security number or does not have a Social Security number. A Social Security number is not needed when public assistance case numbers are provided, or when the application is for a foster child.

(Social Security numbers are maintained by the school as private data and are not used for any other purpose.)

Who should I include as members of my household? Include yourself and all other people living in the household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives or friends). Include a household member who is temporarily away, such as a college student.

What if my income is not always the same? List the amount that you normally get. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get it only sometimes.

How will the information I provide be kept? Information you provide on the form, and your child's approval for school meal benefits, will be protected as private data. See the back page of the application for details on data privacy.

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.

Do I need to notify school officials if my income increases or my household size decreases after I have qualified for free or reduced-price meals? No. Approval for free or reduced-price meals is good for the school year.

If you have other questions or need help, call **763-545-4285**.

Sincerely,

Tom Zellmer

Principal