

FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

8115 Gatehouse Road Falls Church, Virginia 22042

August 10, 2016

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) offers healthy meals every school day. Student breakfast costs \$1.75 and lunch costs \$3.00 for elementary students, \$3.25 for middle, high, and secondary school students. Your child(ren) may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals.

All meals served must meet standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. However, if a student has been determined by a doctor to be disabled and the disability prevents the student from eating the regular school meal, the school will make substitutions prescribed by the doctor. If a substitution is prescribed, there will be no extra charge for the meal. If your student needs substitutions because of a disability, please contact the Office of Food and Nutrition Services at 703-813-4800 for further information.

All children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) are eligible for free meals. Foster children who are the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals. Children who are members of households participating in WIC may also be eligible for free or reduced priced meals based on the household's income. If your total household income is at or below the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines, shown on the chart below, your child(ren) may get free meals or reduced price meals. Your child(ren)'s application from last school year is only good for the first few days of this school year. YOU MUST SEND IN A NEW HOUSEHOLD APPLICATION FOR EACH SCHOOL YEAR.

FEDERAL INCOME GUIDELINES: Your child(ren) may be eligible for free meals or reduced price meals if your household income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines chart shown below.

Income Chart for Free or Reduced Price Meals									
Effective July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017									
Household Size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly						
1	\$21,978	\$1,832	\$423						
2	\$29,637	\$2,470	\$570						
3	\$37,296	\$3,108	\$718						
4	\$44,955	\$3,747	\$865						
5	\$52,614	\$4,385	\$1,012						
6	\$60,273	\$5,023	\$1,160						
7	\$67,951	\$5,663	\$1,307						
8	\$75,647	\$6,304	\$1,455						
For each additional family member, add:	\$7,696	\$642	\$148						

HOW TO APPLY

Households that are receiving SNAP benefits or TANF for their child(ren) as of July 1 may not have to fill out an application. School officials will notify you in writing of your child(ren)'s eligibility for free meal benefits. Once notified your child(ren) will receive free meals unless you tell the school that you do not want benefits. If you are not notified by August 22, 2016 you must submit an application. The application must contain the names of all of the students in the household, the SNAP or TANF case number, and the signature of an adult household member.

If you do not receive SNAP or TANF benefits for your child(ren) complete the application and return it to the Office of Food and Nutrition Services, 6840 Industrial Road, Springfield, Virginia, 22151. If you do not list a SNAP or TANF case number for the child(ren)you are applying for, then the application must have the names of all students, the names of all other household members, the amount of income each person received last month, and how often the income was received. An adult household member must sign the application and include the last four digits of the social security number. If the person does not have a social security number, check the box provided indicating none. You or your child(ren) do not have to be U.S. citizens to qualify for free or reduced price meals.

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If you are applying for a foster child, who is the legal responsibility of a welfare agency or court, an application may not be required. Contact the FCPS Homeless Liaison/Foster Care Liaison's office at 571-423-4332 for more information. If you are applying for a homeless, migrant, or runaway child, an application may not be necessary, contact the FCPS Homeless Liaison/Foster Care Liaison's office at 571-423-4332 for more information.

An application that is not complete cannot be approved. An application that is not signed is not complete. You must send in a new application each school year.

OTHER BENEFITS: Your child(ren) may be eligible for other benefits such as the Virginia children's health insurance program called Family Access to Medical Insurance Security (FAMIS) and/or Medicaid. The law allows the school division to share your free and reduced price meal eligibility information with Medicaid and FAMIS. These programs can only use the information to identify children who may be eligible for free or low-cost health insurance, and to enroll them into either Medicaid or FAMIS. These agencies are not allowed to use the information from your free or reduced price meal application for any other purpose. Medicaid officials or officials with FAMIS may contact you to get more information. You are not required to allow us to share this information with the Medicaid or FAMIS program. Your decision will not affect your children's eligibility for free and reduced price meals. If you do not want your information shared, please check the appropriate box in Section 5 of the application. You may qualify for other assistance programs. To find out how to apply for SNAP or other assistance programs, contact the local social service office in your area.

<u>CONFIDENTIALITY AND NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE:</u> School officials use the information on the application to determine if your child is eligible to receive free or reduced price meals and to verify eligibility. As authorized by the National School Lunch Act, the school division may inform officials connected with other child nutrition, health, and education programs of the information on your application to determine benefits for those programs or for funding and/or evaluation purposes.

VERIFICATION: The Office of Food and Nutrition Services may check your eligibility at any time during the school year. The Office of Food and Nutrition Services may ask you to send information to prove that your child(ren) should receive free or reduced price meals.

FAIR HEARING: If you do not agree with the decision on your application or the results of the verification, you may wish to discuss it with the coordinator, administrative services, at 703-813-4800. If you wish to review the final decision on your application you also have the right to a fair hearing. You can request a hearing by calling 703-813-4811, or writing Mr. Rodney Taylor, Director, at Office of Food and Nutrition Services, 6840 Industrial Road, Springfield, Virginia, 22151.

REAPPLICATION: You may reapply for free or reduced price meals any time during the school year. If you are not eligible now but have a change, such as a decrease in household income, an increase in household size, become unemployed or get SNAP or TANF for your child(ren), fill out an application at that time.

If you need help filling out the application form, please contact the Office of Food and Nutrition Services at 703-813-4800. Return the complete, signed application to: Office of Food and Nutrition Services, 6840 Industrial Road, Springfield, Virginia, 22151.

You will be notified in writing when your child(ren)'s application is approved or denied.

Sincerely,

Karen K. Garza, PH.D Superintendent of Schools

KKG/pm

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the <u>USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form</u>, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

Fairfax County Public Schools 2016-2017 INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE HOUSEHOLD APPLICATION FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS

To apply for free or reduced price meals, complete <u>ONLY ONE application for ALL children in the household who are in school</u> using the following instructions. Sign the application and return it to: Office of Food and Nutrition Services, Fairfax County Public schools, 6840 Industrial Rd., Springfield VA 22151. Call (703) 813-4800 if you need help.

A NEW APPLICATION MUST BE FILLED OUT AND SENT IN EACH SCHOOL YEAR IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS.

A HOUSEHOLD MEMBER IS ANY CHILD OR ADULT LIVING WITH YOU.

If you are applying for a Foster Child, who is the legal responsibility of a welfare agency or the court, an application is not required. Contact the FCPS Homeless Liaison/Foster Care Liaison's office at 571-423-4332 for more information. List all foster children in school in part 1 and check the box for each child indicating the child is a foster child, and complete parts 5, and 6.

If you are applying for a child who is <u>homeless</u> an application is not required. Contact the FCPS Homeless Liaison/Foster Care Liaison's office at 571-423-4332 for more information and complete parts 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

If a member of your household receives benefits from the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) complete parts 1, 2, 5, and 6.

All other households, including WIC households, complete parts 1, 4, 5, and 6.

PART 1 - STUDENT INFORMATION: ALL HOUSEHOLDS COMPLETE PART 1.

- 1. Print the names of all children in the household who are in school
- 2. List the birth date (MM/DD/YY), the grade, and the student's school, for each child.

PART 2 - SNAP OR TANE: If a member of your household receives SNAP or TANE benefits complete parts 1, 2, 5, and 6.

List the name and case number of any household member (including adults) receiving SNAP or TANF benefits.

PART 3 - Homeless Child: If you are applying for a child that is homeless complete parts 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Check the appropriate box and contact the FCPS Homeless Liaison/Foster Care Liaison's office at 571-423-4332 for more information.

PART 4- ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS AND GROSS INCOME

- 1. Names: List all household members including students in Part 1. Use another piece of paper if you need more space.
- 2. Age: For each household member listed write their age.
- 3. Gross Income and How Often It Was Received
 - A. For each household member, list each type of income received for the month. You must tell us how often the money is received weekly, every two weeks, twice a month, or monthly.
 - B. For any person with no income, including children, write "0" in the box. However, if left blank that will also be counted as "0".
 - C. 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. Next to the amount darken the circle to show how often the person received it.
 - D. Also list the amount you receive for Worker's Compensation, unemployment or strike benefits, if you receive them. For other income, list the amount each person got from welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and Veteran's benefits (VA benefits).
 - E. Under *Any Other Income*, list disability benefits, cash withdrawn from savings, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, income from your rental property and any other income. Do not include income from SNAP, 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 for your business or farm
 - F. Military families: If you are in the Military Privatization Housing Initiative, or get combat pay, do not include these allowances as income. If you get a Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) to live off-base this MUST be included as income.

PART 5 – OTHER BENEFITS: You do not have to provide this information in order to be eligible for free or reduced price meals. For other FCPS benefits see the FCPS Consent to Share Information for Benefits for Other Programs form

PART 6 - SIGNATURE AND SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: ALL HOUSEHOLDS COMPLETE PART 6.

- 1. An adult household member must sign the form and provide the last four digits of their Social Security Number (or mark the box | I do not have a Social Security Number).
- 2. If you listed a SNAP or TANF, or if you are applying for a foster child, the last four digits of the social security number are not needed.

Privacy Act Statement: 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 last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number are not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) 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 determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

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Fairfax County Public Schools 2016-2017 Confidential Household Application for Free and Reduced Price Meals Complete ONE APPLICATION per Household in Blue or Black Ink

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6	(B	efore	signii	ng, read	CIAL SECURITY NUMBER: An adult household member mu the privacy and civil rights statements on the back of this application). I deral funds and that school officials may verify (check) the information.	certify (promise)	that all infor	rmation	on this application is	s true and	that all income is repor	rted. I understand that	this information is give	n in conr	nection
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