

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. San Angelo ISD offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs: No charge in Elementary schools and \$1.50 in Secondary schools. Lunch costs \$2.50 in Elementary schools and \$2.75 in Secondary schools. **Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals.** Reduced price is \$0.30 for Secondary breakfast and \$0.40 for lunch for all schools. Parents can prepay for students meals at the school cafeteria or online at www.myschoolbucks.com. This packet includes an application for free or reduced price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (**SNAP**), **Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)** or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (**TANF**), are eligible for free meals.
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- Children may receive free or reduced price meals if your household's gross income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

| Family Size | Reduced-Price Meal Income Eligibility Guidelines | | | | |
|--|--|---------|-----------------|-----------------|---------|
| | Annually | Monthly | Twice per Month | Every Two Weeks | Weekly |
| 1 | \$22,311 | \$1,860 | \$930 | \$859 | \$430 |
| 2 | \$30,044 | \$2,504 | \$1,252 | \$1,156 | \$578 |
| 3 | \$37,777 | \$3,149 | \$1,575 | \$1,453 | \$727 |
| 4 | \$45,510 | \$3,793 | \$1,897 | \$1,751 | \$876 |
| 5 | \$53,243 | \$4,437 | \$2,219 | \$2,048 | \$1,024 |
| 6 | \$60,976 | \$5,082 | \$2,541 | \$2,346 | \$1,173 |
| 7 | \$68,709 | \$5,726 | \$2,863 | \$2,643 | \$1,322 |
| 8 | \$76,442 | \$6,371 | \$3,186 | \$2,941 | \$1,471 |
| <i>For each additional member add:</i> | | | | | |
| | +\$7,733 | +\$645 | +\$323 | +\$298 | +\$149 |

- 2. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD?** No. 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 mail to 305 Baker St, San Angelo, TX, 76903. If immediate assistance is needed, we recommend returning your application directly to the Child Nutrition Office.
- 3. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE DIRECTLY CERTIFIED FOR FREE MEALS?** No, but please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact the **Child Nutrition Office at 325-659-3615 or email Brenda.Fulks@saisd.org** immediately.
- 4. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW 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. If you do not

send in a new application that is approved by the Child Nutrition Department or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for meals.

5. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY? Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail **the schools homeless liaison or Ricki Martinez, migrant specialist at 325-947-3838 ext. 534.**
6. 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 send in an application.
7. WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY? List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper, and attach it to your application. Contact the **Child Nutrition Office at 325-659-3615 or e-mail Brenda.Fulks@saisd.org** to receive a second application.
8. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced price meals.
9. 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. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
10. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY? Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, or Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance Payments it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.
11. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
12. 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.
13. 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: **Kim Carter, Child Nutrition Director at 305 Baker Street, San Angelo, TX. 76903, 325-659-3615, Kim.Carter@saisd.org.**
14. HOW WILL I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFIED FOR MEAL BENEFITS? Complete applications will be processed within 3 to 10 days from the date received by the Child Nutrition Office. Notification letters will be directly mailed to the parent or guardian. The letter sent will explain the level of meal benefits your children have qualified for and the date the benefits will become effective.
15. WILL I HAVE TO PAY FOR MEALS CONSUMED AND/OR CHARGED THAT OCCURRED PRIOR TO THE APPLICATION BEING APPROVED? Yes. Parents are responsible for any charges incurred by their children in the cafeteria. This includes the timeframe when applications are being processed for meal benefits. The District charge policy for school meals is posted in the school cafeterias and is available at www.saisdschoolnutrition.com on the prepayment tab.
16. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 2-1-1.

If you have other questions or need help, call **the SAISD Child Nutrition office at 325-659-3615 or e-mail Brenda.Fulks@saisd.org. Si necesita ayuda, por favor llame al teléfono: the SAISD Child Nutrition office at 325-659-3615.**

Sincerely,
Brenda Fulks
SAISD Child Nutrition Office