



West Irondequoit Central School District
 Office of Business/Personnel
 321 List Avenue
 Rochester, NY 14617
 Telephone: (585) 336-2993
 Fax: (585) 336-2975

July 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. West Irondequoit Central School District offers healthy lunches every school day for a cost of \$2.25. Children from households that meet federal income guidelines (outlined below) are eligible for free lunch meals or reduced price lunch meals. Reduced price meals cost each eligible student \$.25. To apply for free or reduced lunch price meals, submit a Direct Certification letter from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance OR complete the enclosed application, sign it, and return it to **Debbie Leo, 321 List Avenue, Rochester, NY 14617** as soon as possible. Please refer to the guidelines contained in this letter when completing the application. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information.

1. **Do I need to fill out an application for each child?** NO. Complete the application to apply for free or reduced price meals. Do not fill out more than one application for your household.
2. **Who can get free meals?** Children in households getting Food Stamps or TANF and most foster children can get meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household income is within the free limit on the Federal Income Guidelines. Each foster child must be listed on a separate application, with Part 2 completed and include an adult signature.
3. **Can homeless, runaway and migrant children get free meals?** Please call Linda McGinley at district office to see if your child(ren) qualify, if you have not been informed that they will get free meals.
4. **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 Income Chart, shown below.
5. **Should I fill out an application if I receive a letter this school year saying my children are approved for free or reduced price meals?** Please read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. Call Debbie Leo at 336-2993 if you have any questions.
6. **I get WIC, can my child(ren) get free meals?** Please fill out an application.
7. **Will the information I give be checked?** The school may ask you at any time during the school year to verify your eligibility.
8. **If I don't qualify now, may I apply later?** Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start getting Food Stamps, TANF or other benefits. If you lose your job, your children may be able to get free or reduced price meals.
9. **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 Linda McGinley, 321 List Avenue, Rochester, NY 14617 (336-2981).
10. **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.
11. **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.) You must include yourself and all children who live with you.
12. **What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount that you normally get. For example, if you normally get \$1,000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only got \$900, put down that you get \$1,000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get it only sometimes.

Income Chart: The following chart lists income levels according to household size and income levels received either yearly, monthly, or weekly. If your total household income is the same or less than the amounts on the Income Chart below, your children can get reduced price meals, and may be eligible to receive free meals.

INCOME CHART
 Effective from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

House-hold size	Annual	Monthly	Twice/month	Every/2 Weeks	Weekly
1	\$20,036	\$1,670	\$835	\$771	\$386
2	26,955	2,247	1,124	1,037	519
3	33,874	2,823	1,412	1,303	652
4	40,793	3,400	1,700	1,569	785
5	47,712	3,976	1,988	1,836	918
6	54,631	4,553	2,277	2,102	1,051
7	61,550	5,130	2,565	2,368	1,184
8	68,469	5,706	2,853	2,634	1,317
For each additional family member add	+6,919	+577	+289	+267	+134

How to Apply: To get free or reduced price meals for your children you may submit a **Direct Certification letter received from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, OR carefully complete one application** for your household and return it to the designated office. If you now receive food stamps, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) for any children, or participate in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), the application must include the children's names, the household food stamp, TANF or FDPIR case number and the signature of an adult household member. All children with the same case number may be listed on the same application. Separate applications are required for children with different case numbers. If you do not list a food stamp, TANF or FDPIR case number for all the children for whom you are applying, the application must include the names of everyone in the household, the amount of income each household member, and how often it is received and where it comes from. It must include the signature of an adult household member and that adult's social security number, or the word "**none**" if the adult does not have a social security number. An application that is not complete cannot be approved. Contact your local Department of Social Services for your food stamp or TANF case number or complete the income portion of the application.

Reporting Changes: The benefits that you are approved for at the time of application are effective for the entire school year. **You no longer need to report changes for an increase in income or decrease in household size, or if you no longer receive food stamps.**

Income Exclusions: The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care Development (Block Grant) Fund should not be considered as income for this program.

Nondiscrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. *To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY).* USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Meal Service to Children With Disabilities: Federal regulations require schools and institutions to serve meals at no extra charge to children with a disability which may restrict their diet. A student with a disability is defined in 7CFR Part 15b.3 of Federal regulations, as one who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities are defined to include functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working. You must request the special meals from the school and provide the school with medical certification from a medical doctor. If you believe your child needs substitutions because of a disability, please get in touch with us for further information, as there is specific information that the medical certification must contain.

Confidentiality: The United States Department of Agriculture has approved the release of students names and eligibility status, without parent/guardian consent, to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of federal education programs such as Title I and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which are United States Department of Education programs used to determine areas such as the allocation of funds to schools, to evaluate socioeconomic status of the school's attendance area, and to assess educational progress. Information may also be released to State health or State education programs administered by the State agency or local education agency, provided the State or local education agency administers the program, and federal State or local nutrition programs similar to the National School Lunch Program. Additionally, *all* information contained in the free and reduced price application may be released to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of programs authorized under the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) or Child Nutrition Act (CNA); including the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, the Special Milk Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC); the Comptroller General of the United States for audit purposes, and federal, State or local law enforcement officials investigating alleged violation of the programs under the NSLA or CNA.

The disclosure of eligibility information not specifically authorized by the NSLA requires a written consent statement from the parent/guardian.

We will let you know when your application is approved or denied.

Sincerely,



William G. Domm
Assistant Superintendent for Business/Personnel

WGD/dl
Attachment

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

To apply for free and reduced price meals, submit a Direct Certification letter received from the Department of Social Services OR complete the application using the instructions for your household. Sign the application and return the application to the school. Please complete a separate application for **each** foster child. **Call the school if you need help: Debbie Leo 336-2993.** Ensure that all information is provided. Failure to do so may result in denial of benefits for your child or unnecessary delay in approving your application.

Part 1 STUDENT INFORMATION: ALL HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE THIS PART

- 1) Print the names of the children for whom you are applying.
- 2) List their grade and school.

Part 2 HOUSEHOLDS WITH A FOSTER CHILD: COMPLETE THIS PART AND PART 5. A foster child is the legal responsibility of a welfare agency or court. A separate application must be completed for each foster child.

- 1) List the foster child's monthly "personal use" income. ("Personal Use" income is money given by the welfare office identified by category for the child's personal use, such as an allowance, and all other money the child gets, such as money from his/her family or money from the child's employment.) Write "0" if the foster child does not get "personal use" income. **SKIP PART 4.** Do not list any other children, household members or income, or a social security number.
- 2) A foster parent or other official representing the child must sign the application in PART 5.

Part 3 HOUSEHOLDS GETTING FOOD STAMPS OR ADC/TANF: COMPLETE THIS PART AND SIGN PART 5. COMPLETE A SEPARATE APPLICATION FOR CHILD/CHILDREN WITH A DIFFERENT CASE NUMBER.

- 1) List a current food stamp case number or ADC/TANF or FDPIR number. Do not use the number on your benefit card. The case number is provided on your benefit letter. An adult household member must sign the application in PART 5. **SKIP PART 4.** Do not list names of household members or income if you list a food stamp case number, ADC/TANF, or FDPIR number.
- 2) An adult household member must sign the application in PART 5. **SKIP PART 4.** Do not list names of household members or income if you list a food stamp case number, ADC/TANF or FDPIR number.

Part 4 & 5 ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS: COMPLETE THESE PARTS AND ALL OF PART 5.

- 1) Write the names of everyone in your household, whether they get income or not. Include yourself, the children you are applying for, all other children, your spouse, grandparents, and other related and unrelated people in your household. Use another piece of paper if you need more space.
- 2) Write the amount of current income each household member receives, before taxes or anything else is taken out and indicate where it came from, such as earnings, welfare, pensions, and other income. If the current income was more or less than usual, write that person's usual income **Specify how often this income amount is received: weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, 2 x per month.**
- 3) The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care and Development Block Grant, Temporary Assistance to Families (TANF) and At Risk Child Care Programs should **not** be considered as income for this program.
- 4) The application must include the social security of the adult who signs **PART 5** if Part 4 is completed. If the adult does not have a social security number, write "none". If you listed a food stamp, ADC/TANF or FDPIR number, or if you are applying for a foster child, a social security number is not needed.

Other Benefits: Your child may be eligible for benefits such as Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In order to determine if your child is eligible, program officials need information from your free and reduced price meal application. Your written consent is required before any information may be released.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Section 9 of the National School Lunch Act requires that unless your children's food stamp or ADC/TANF case number is provided, you must include the social security number of the adult household member signing the application, or indicate that the household member does not have a social security number. If a social security number is not given or an indication is not made that the signer does not have such a number, the application cannot be approved. The social security number may be used to identify the household member in carrying out efforts to verify the correctness of information stated on the application. These verification efforts may be carried out through program reviews, audits, and investigations any may include contacting employers to determine income, contacting a food stamp or welfare office to determine current certification for receipt of food stamps or other benefits, contacting the State employment security office to determine the amount of benefits received and checking the documentation produced by household members to prove the amount of income received. These efforts may result in a loss or reduction of benefits, administrative claims, or legal actions if incorrect information is reported.

DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis or race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

