

National School Lunch Program/School Breakfast Program - Elementary

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **The Diocese of Cleveland/Nutrition Services** offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs **\$1.35**; lunch costs **\$2.25**. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is **\$.30** for breakfast and **\$.40** for lunch.

To apply for free or reduced price meals, use the Free and Reduced Price School Meals Family Application, which is enclosed. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. **Return the completed application to the school.**

Here are answers to questions you may have about applying:

1. **Do I need to fill out an application for each child?** No. You may use one Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application for all students in your household.
2. **Who can get free meals?** 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. Please fill out an application.
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 already been informed that they will get free meals for this school year, please call **Diocese of Cleveland / Nutrition Services (216) 696-6525 Ext. 6320** to see if your child(ren) 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. Please fill out an 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. Please call **Diocese of Cleveland/ Nutrition Services (216) 696-6525 Ext. 6320** 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 you have already received a letter telling 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 of the information.
10. **If I don't qualify now, may I apply again later?** Yes. You may apply or re-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 Nutrition Services officials. You may also ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: **Christine Menhart, Diocese of Cleveland/Nutrition Services, 1404 East Ninth Street, 2nd Floor, Cleveland, OH 44114-1722 (216) 696-6525 Ext. 6320.**
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 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 not if you get it only sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
15. **My Spouse is deployed to a combat zone. Is his/her combat pay counted as income?** No, if the combat pay is received in addition to his/her basic pay because of his/her deployment and it wasn't received before being deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact **Diocese of Cleveland/ Nutrition Services (216) 696-6525 Ext. 6320** if you have questions.
16. **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 **(216) 696-6525 Ext. 3120** or **(800) 869-6525 Ext. 3120** (in-state long distance).

Sincerely,
Nutrition Services

2011-2012

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

FEDERAL INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES			
For School Year 2011-2012			
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

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 determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

Non-discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

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