

**National School Lunch Program/School Breakfast Program
PUBLIC RELEASE FOR FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEALS
2015–16**

Washington State School for the Blind School District/Private School today announced its policy for free and reduced-price lunches/snacks and/or free or reduced-price breakfasts for children who qualify according to the eligibility standards below, for meals served under the National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Programs. Each school and the school district's central office have a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

Local school officials have adopted the following family size income criteria for determining eligibility:

Eligibility Scale for Free and Reduced-Price Meals July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016										
Household Size	Yearly	Monthly	FREE			REDUCED-PRICE				
			Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly	Year	Month	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$15,301	\$1,276	\$638	\$589	\$295	\$21,775	\$1,815	\$ 908	\$838	\$419
2	20,709	1,726	863	797	399	29,471	2,456	1,228	1,134	567
3	26,117	2,177	1,089	1,005	503	37,167	3,098	1,549	1,430	715
4	31,525	2,628	1,314	1,213	607	44,863	3,739	1,870	1,726	863
5	36,933	3,078	1,539	1,421	711	52,559	4,380	2,190	2,022	1,011
6	42,341	3,529	1,765	1,629	815	60,255	5,022	2,511	2,318	1,159
7	47,749	3,980	1,990	1,837	919	67,951	5,663	2,832	2,614	1,307
8	53,157	4,430	2,215	2,045	1,023	75,647	6,304	3,152	2,910	1,455
Each Additional Household Member Add	+ 5,408	+ 451	+ 226	+ 208	+104	+ 7,696	+ 642	+ 321	+ 296	+ 148

Children from families whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

Application forms, with a letter to parents or guardians, are being sent to all homes. To apply for free or reduced-price meals, households must fill out the application and return it to the school. Additional copies are available at the school office in each school. The information provided on the application will be used to determine eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school or other program officials.

For school officials to determine eligibility, households must provide the following information listed on the application: the names of everyone in the household, the amount of income each household member received last month and where it came from, the signature of an adult household member, and that adult's last 4 numbers of the social security number. If the adult signing the application does not have a social security number, check the "I do not have a social security number box." For a child who is a member of a Basic Food household or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) assistance unit, the household need provide only the child's name, the Basic Food or TANF, or FDPIR case number, and printed name and signature of an adult member on the application.

NOTE: At this time, the following paragraph applies only to public school districts. The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) will download the names of all children into the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) Comprehensive Education and Data Research System. Information will include the child's first name, last name, middle initial, and date of birth. Upon receipt of this information, OSPI will match student names against the DSHS file and then make the "match" data available to each district. Students will automatically qualify for free meals if their schools participate in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Programs. All children in these households are eligible for free meals and if any child was not listed on the eligibility notice, contact the school or district office. Households that do not want their child(ren) to participate in the free meal program should notify the child(ren)'s school. Applications may be submitted at any time during the school year.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price policy, the designated approving official(s) will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the official may wish to discuss the decision with the approving official on an informal basis. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal may make a request either orally or in writing to the fair hearing official, Dr. Dean Stenehjem 360-947-3301, for a hearing on the decision.

Foster children, under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are also eligible for free meals. If you have questions about applying for meal benefits for foster child(ren), contact the school or district office. The information provided by the household is confidential and will be used only for the purposes of determining eligibility and verifying data.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.