

**2008 – 2009 D.C. Public Schools Family Application
School Breakfast, Lunch, and Afterschool Snacks**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child’s school offers healthy breakfasts and lunches each school day through the National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs. Some schools offer afterschool snacks. Families need to complete and submit the Family Application for School Lunch and Breakfast to help the D.C. Public School (DCPS) system receive federal reimbursements to provide nutritious meals. There is a possibility that DCPS will receive Provision 2 status, allowing *all children to receive free meals*. In order for this to happen, it is *especially important* to collect meal applications from every household for the 2008-2009 school year. This will enable DCPS to obtain proper reimbursement and provide meals to all children at no charge.

You only need to complete *one* application for *all* students in the household, even if they attend different DCPS schools. You must complete an application each school year. If your family is participating in the Food Stamp or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs, your child(ren) qualify for free meals. Otherwise, your application will be reviewed to see if your child(ren) qualify for free, reduced price, or paid meals. For an application in Spanish, Mandarin, Amharic, Vietnamese, or French, please call 202-576-7400.

Presently, for school year 2008-2009, lunch costs \$1.25 for elementary students and \$1.50 for secondary students. Reduced price lunch is \$0.20 for both elementary and secondary school students. Even though breakfast is free for all students, all families still need to submit the family school meal application so that schools can get adequate federal reimbursements for serving breakfast.

Non-discrimination 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 (USDA) policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint alleging discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call, toll free, (866) 632-9992 (Voice). TDD users can contact USDA through local relay or the Federal Relay at (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (relay voice users). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Also, the District of Columbia Human Rights Act, approved December 13, 1977 (DC Law 2-38; DC Official Code §2-1402.11(2006), as amended) prohibits discrimination on the basis of marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, family responsibilities, familial status, source of income, place of residence or business, genetic information, matriculation, or political affiliation of any individual. To file a complaint alleging discrimination on one of these bases, please contact the District of Columbia’s Office of Human Rights at (202) 727-3545.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I get free or reduced price school meals for my child? You must complete the Family Application for School Lunch and Breakfast. Return the application along with your other enrollment materials or take it to your youngest child’s school.

- **What if I am receiving Food Stamps or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families?** Your child(ren) are eligible for free school meals. You only need to complete Parts 1 and 4 of the application (make sure to include your case number), and sign at the bottom.
- **What if I am applying for a foster child?** You only need to complete Parts 1 and 2 (make sure to include the child’s “personal use income”), and sign at the bottom. Complete a separate application for each foster child who resides with you.
- **What if I am applying for a homeless, migrant, or runaway child?** Your child(ren) are eligible for free and reduced price meals. You only need to need to complete Parts 1 and 3, and sign at the bottom.

In Part 5, 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. If you are submitting the application for a family receiving Food Stamps or TANF or a homeless, migrant, runaway, or foster child, you do not have to complete Part 5.

Will the information I give be checked? The information on the application may be checked at any time during the school year. School officials may ask you to send papers to verify the information on the application.

If my children don’t qualify for free or reduced price meals now, may I apply later? Yes. Even if your children do not qualify now, you should apply again if you have a change, such as if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start getting Food Stamps or TANF.

What if my income is not always the same? List the amount you usually 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 usually get overtime pay, include it, but not if you get it only sometimes. If a household member does not receive any income, you can check the “No income” box next to his or her name.

What is the income limit for my child to qualify for free or reduced price meals? Your child(ren) may qualify for either reduced price or free meals if your household income falls below the limits on this chart.

Federal Income Chart for School Year 2008-2009			
Household Size	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
1	\$370	\$1,604	\$19,240
2	\$499	\$2,159	\$25,900
3	\$627	\$2,714	\$32,560
4	\$755	\$3,269	\$39,220
5	\$883	\$3,824	\$45,880
6	\$1,011	\$4,379	\$52,540
7	\$1,139	\$4,934	\$59,200
8	\$1,267	\$5,489	\$65,860
For each additional housemember, add	\$129	\$555	\$6,660

If my child has a disability can I get a meal substitution? All meals served must meet nutrition standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. If a child is determined by a doctor to be disabled and the disability would prevent the child from eating the regular school meal, the school will make substitutions prescribed by the doctor. For more information, please contact the Executive Director of the Office of Food and Nutrition Services, 3535 V Street, NE, Washington, DC 20018, telephone (202) 576-7400.

Do I have to provide a social security number? To qualify for free or reduced price meals, you must include the social security number of the household member signing the form or indicate that the household member signing the form does not have a social security number, by checking the box “I do not have a Social Security Number.” Even if you check the box, your child(ren) can still qualify for free or reduced price meals. Note: for households participating in Food Stamps or TANF or applying for homeless, runaway, migrant, or foster children, you *do not* need to supply a social security number.

What if I disagree with the school’s decision about my application? You should talk to school officials. You may also ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: the Executive Director of the Office of Food and Nutrition Services, 3535 V Street, NE, Washington, DC 20018, telephone (202) 576-7400.

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. (If you choose not to submit the information, check the “refusal of benefits” box on the application.) 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 Food Stamp Program, 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.