

FREE AND REDUCED MEAL PROGRAM Frequently Asked Questions

1. **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 completed application to: Sue Kruse, 3205 Shreve Rd. Wooster, 44691 ph. # 330-264-9491.**
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.
STOP! If you have received a NOTICE OF DIRECT CERTIFICATION for free meals (*in early August*), **do not** complete this application. But **do** let the school know if any children living in your household are not listed on the Notice of Direct Certification letter you received.
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.
5. **Who can get reduced price meals?** If your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Eligibility Income Chart provided in this packet, your children qualifies.
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 carefully and follow the instructions. Call Sue Kruse, Treasurer at 330-264-9491 with any 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 the first few days of this school year. You must send a new application unless the school told you your child is eligible for the new school year.
8. **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 fill out an application.
9. **Will the information I give be checked?** Yes, we may ask you to send written proof.
10. **If I don't qualify now, may I apply later?** Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year.
11. **What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application?** Please call Sue Kruse, Treasurer at (330) 264-9491 with any questions or concerns.
12. **May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen?** Yes. You or your children 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 (ex. 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 receive \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only received \$900, put down that you receive \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes.
- 15. We are in the military, do we include our housing allowance as income?** If you get an off-base housing allowance, it must be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income.
- 16. My Spouse is deployed to a combat zone. Is their combat pay counted as income?** No, if combat pay is received in addition to their basic pay because of their deployment and it wasn't received before they were deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact school for more information.
- 17. 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.

