

FREE AND REDUCED MEAL APPLICATIONS

What do I need to know?

- **Do I need to fill out a Free and Reduced Meal Application every year???**

YES!!!

A FREE AND REDUCED MEAL APPLICATION MUST BE COMPLETED FOR STUDENTS EACH YEAR unless you have received a letter in the mail stating that your student has been identified as **DIRECTLY-CERTIFIED** for the current school year.

- **What does Directly Certified mean?**

The National School Lunch and Breakfast Act allows school districts to directly certify students as eligible for free school meals using Food Assistance Program (SNAP, formally known as Food Stamps) or Ohio Works First (OWF). Cuyahoga Falls City Schools Students receiving qualifying benefits may be identified in the Claims Reimbursement and Reporting System (CRRS) of the Ohio Department of Education. .

- **Can I complete the application online?**

YES!!!

Go to www.cfalls.org

Select **Apply Online for Free and Reduced Meal Benefits** in the **Parent** section under **Quick Links**

- **Do I need to fill out a separate application for each of my students???**

NO!!!

Include **ALL STUDENTS** and **ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS** on One Application.

- **Why are my students still Free or Reduced and I haven't filled out an application???** **Do I need to fill out an application???**

YES!!!

Meal Benefits are "**carried over**" from the previous year for the first 30 school days. **After 30 days (9/27/2018)**, if no Free and Reduced Application is received, the students' status will be switched to "**Full Pay**" and student lunches will be charged at full price. **You will be responsible for payment.**

● What qualifies a student for meal benefits?

MEAL BENEFITS ARE DETERMINED BASED ON:

1. Assistance Benefits (SNAP/OWF) Received by the Household
2. Household Income
3. Students who are in Foster Care
4. Homeless, Runaway or Migrant Students

1. Assistance Benefits?

Households receiving SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) or OWF (Ohio Works First) benefits qualify for meal benefits.

*The SNAP or OWF case number is **required on the application**. This is the case number listed on the letter from Job and Family Services stating that the household receives benefits. Please keep this letter handy for verification. It is not necessary to provide income information if receiving SNAP or OWF and the case number is provided.*

2. Household Income?

If the household does not receive SNAP or OWF, then **Meal Benefits are determined using the household size and the all GROSS INCOME for all members residing in the household**. This includes employment income, welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's benefits (VA benefits), disability benefits, Worker's Compensation, unemployment or strike benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, and any other income.

Income guidelines are determined by the USDA and vary from year to year.

3. Students in Foster Care?

Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals. Only the foster students in the household are eligible for Free Meals.

4. Students who are Homeless, Migrant, or Runaway?

Homeless: If the members of your household lack a permanent address, are staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement.

Migrant: If the family relocates on a seasonal basis.

Runaway: Children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household.

● Why am I being asked about Disclosure for Fee Waiver on the application???

Your eligibility for meal benefits may also qualify your student(s) for other school district benefit programs, such as waiving of some school fees. However, in order to receive these benefits, you must give us permission to share your meal status information. Fee waivers must be completed every year!!! You may indicate your intent to share this information by doing one of the following:

- a. Submit a **Fee Waiver Form** (each year) or
- b. Check the **Disclosure Box** when completing the **Online Free & Reduced Meal application** or
- c. Check **YES and sign** the **SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL FEE WAIVER ADULT CONSENT section of the paper Free and Reduced Meal Application**.