

## ATTACHMENT B

### LETTER TO HOUSEHOLD SCHOOL YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. (*Name of School*) \_\_\_\_\_ offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$ \_\_\_\_\_; lunch costs \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals. Reduced-price is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for breakfast and \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for lunch.

1. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. You can use *one Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals 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 the completed application to one of your children's schools.
2. WHO CAN GET FREE MEALS? All children in households receiving benefits from *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)*, *Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)*, or *Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)* 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-Eligibility Guidelines.
3. CAN FOSTER CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Yes, foster children who 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 been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail your child's school to see if they 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, shown on this 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. Call the school 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 the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
8. I GET WIC (WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN). 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, and we may also ask you to send written proof.
10. IF I DO NOT QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER? Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free or 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 school officials. You also may ask for a hearing to have the decision reviewed.

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 U.S. citizens 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 living 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 prorated 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 make \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
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 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 was not received before he/she was deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your 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 other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office.

## LETTER TO HOUSEHOLD

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### INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING

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#### *A HOUSEHOLD MEMBER IS ANY CHILD OR ADULT LIVING WITH YOU*

IF YOUR HOUSEHOLD RECEIVES BENEFITS FROM *SNAP*, *TANF*, OR *FDPIR*, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

- Part 1:** List all household members, the name of school for each child, each child's grade, and each child's birth date.
- Part 2:** List the name and case number for any household member (including adults) receiving *SNAP*, *TANF*, or *FDPIR* benefits. One case number per household will qualify all enrolled students within the household.
- Part 3:** Skip this part.
- Part 4:** Skip this part.
- Part 5:** Sign the form. The last four digits of a social security number are *NOT* necessary.
- Part 6:** Answer this question if you choose to.

IF NO ONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD GETS *SNAP*, *TANF*, OR *FDPIR* BENEFITS, AND IF ANY CHILD IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS HOMELESS, A MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

- Part 1:** List all household members, the name of school for each child, each child's grade, and each child's birth date.
- Part 2:** Skip this part.
- Part 3:** If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway, check the appropriate box and call (*your school, homeless liaison, or migrant coordinator*) \_\_\_\_\_.
- Part 4:** Complete only if a child in your household is not eligible under Part 3. See instructions for All Other Households.
- Part 5:** Sign the form. The last four digits of a social security number are *NOT* necessary if you did not need to fill in Part 4.
- Part 6:** Answer this question if you choose to.

IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR A FOSTER CHILD, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

**If ALL children in the household are foster children:**

- Part 1:** List all foster children, the name of school for each child, each child's grade, and each child's birth date. Check the box indicating the child is a foster child.
- Part 2:** Skip this part.
- Part 3:** Skip this part.
- Part 4:** Skip this part.
- Part 5:** Sign the form. The last four digits of a social security number are *NOT* necessary.
- Part 6:** Answer this question if you choose to.

**If some of the children in the household are foster children:**

- Part 1:** List all household members, the name of school for each child, each child's grade, and each child's birth date. For any person, including children, with no income, you must check the *No Income* box. Check the box if the child is a foster child.
- Part 2:** If the household does not have a case number, skip this part.
- Part 3:** If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway, check the appropriate box and call (*your school, homeless liaison, or migrant coordinator*) \_\_\_\_\_. If not, skip this part.
- Part 4:** Follow these instructions to report total household income from this month or last month.
- **Box 1—Name:** List all household members with income.

- **Box 2—Gross Income and How Often It Was Received:** For each household member, list each type of income received for the month. You must tell us how often the money is received—*weekly, every other week, twice a month, or monthly*. For earnings, be sure to list the *gross income*, not the take-home pay. Gross income is the amount earned **BEFORE** taxes and other deductions. You should be able to find it on your pay stub, or your boss can tell you.
- For other income, list the amount each person got for the month from welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran’s benefits (VA benefits), and disability benefits.
- Under *All Other Income*, list Worker’s Compensation, unemployment or strike benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, and any other income. Do not include income from SNAP, TANF, FDPIR, WIC, federal education benefits, and foster payments received by the family from the placing agency. For *ONLY* the self-employed, under *Earnings From Work*, report income after expenses. This is for your business, farm, or rental property. If you are in the Military Privatized Housing Initiative or get combat pay, do not include these allowances as income.

**Part 5:** Adult household member must sign the form and list the last four digits of his/her social security number or mark the box if he/she does not have one.

**Part 6:** Answer this question if you choose to.

ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS, INCLUDING WIC HOUSEHOLDS, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

**Part 1:** List all household members, the name of school for each child, each child’s grade, and each child’s birth date. For any person, including children, with no income, you must check the *No Income* box.

**Part 2:** If the household does not have a case number, skip this part.

**Part 3:** If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway, check the appropriate box and call (*your school, homeless liaison, or migrant coordinator*) \_\_\_\_\_. If not, skip this part.

**Part 4:** Follow these instructions to report total household income from this month or last month.

- **Box 1—Name:** List all household members with income.
- **Box 2—Gross Income and How Often It Was Received:** For each household member, list each type of income received for the month. You must tell us how often the money is received—*weekly, every other week, twice a month, or monthly*. For earnings, be sure to list the *gross income*, not the take-home pay. Gross income is the amount earned **BEFORE** taxes and other deductions. You should be able to find it on your pay stub, or your boss can tell you.
- For other income, list the amount each person got for the month from welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran’s benefits (VA benefits), and disability benefits.
- Under *All Other Income*, list Worker’s Compensation, unemployment or strike benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, and any other income. Do not include income from SNAP, TANF, FDPIR, WIC, federal education benefits, and foster payments received by the family from the placing agency. For *ONLY* the self-employed, under *Earnings From Work*, report income after expenses. This is for your business, farm, or rental property. If you are in the Military Privatized Housing Initiative or get combat pay, do not include these allowances as income.

**Part 5:** Adult household member must sign the form and list the last four digits of his/her social security number or mark the box if he/she does not have one.

**Part 6:** Answer this question if you choose to.