FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

We are excited to offer an online meal application. The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit https://secure.ezmealapp.com/ to begin or to learn more about the online application process. If you decide to fill out the online application, you do not have to fill out the paper application. Contact Angie Haney at 479-965-7160 or ahaney@tigersmail.org if you have any questions about the online application.

Page down for the instruction sheet and paper appliation that can be printed.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Charleston School District offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.00; lunch costs \$2.25. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is \$0.30 for breakfast and \$0.40 for lunch. This packet includes an application for free or reduced price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

- 1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?
 - All children in households receiving benefits from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), are eligible for free meals.
 - Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
 - Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
 - Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
 - Children may receive free or reduced price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 2023-2024						
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly			
1	26,973	2,248	519			
2	36,482	3,041	702			
3	45,991	3,833	885			
4	55,500	4,625	1,068			
5	65,009	5,418	1,251			
6	74,518	6,210	1,434			
7	84,027	7,003	1,616			
8	93,536	7,795	1,799			
Each additional person:	9,509	793	183			

- 2. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY? Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail Angie Haney at 479-965-7160 or ahaney@tigersmail.org.
- 3. 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 the completed application to your child's school.
- 4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? No, but please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact Angie Haney at 479-965-7160 or ahaney@tigersmail.org, immediately.
- 5. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? Yes! You are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application if you are able. The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit https://secure.ezmealapp.com/ to begin or to learn more about the online application process. Contact Angie Haney at 479-965-7160 or ahaney@tigersmail.org if you have any questions about the online application.

- 6. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year, through September 25, 2023. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not send in a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for meals.
- 7. 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 send in an application.
- 8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
- 9. IF I DON'T 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 and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
- 10. 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 by calling or writing to: Melissa Moore, PO BOX 188, Charleston, AR, 72933. 479-965-7160, mmoore@tigersmail.org.
- 11. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced price meals.
- 12. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you <u>normally</u> 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 made \$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.
- 13. WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT? Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application, or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will <u>also</u> be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you <u>meant</u> to do so.
- 14. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY? Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.
- 15. WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY? List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper, and attach it to your application. Contact Angie Haney at 479-965-7160 or ahaney@tigersmail.org to receive a second application.
- 16. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), contact your local assistance office or call 501-682-8276.

Ιf	you i	have	other	questions	or need	l help,	call	479-	965-	716	0.
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Sincerely,

Angie Haney

HOW TO APPLY FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Please use these instructions to help you fill out the application for free or reduced price school meals. You only need to submit one application per household, even if your children attend more than one school in Charleston School District. The application must be filled out completely to certify your children for free or reduced price school meals. Please follow these instructions in order! Each step of the instructions is the same as the steps on your application. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please contact Angie Haney, PO BOX 188, Charleston, AR 72933. Phone: 479-965-7160.

PLEASE USE A PEN (NOT A PENCIL) WHEN FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION AND DO YOUR BEST TO PRINT CLEARLY.

STEP 1: LIST ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS WHO ARE INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND STUDENTS UP TO AND INCLUDING GRADE 12

Tell us how many infants, children, and school students live in your household. They do NOT have to be related to you to be a part of your household.

Who should I list here? When filling out this section, please include ALL members in your household who are:

- Children age 18 or under AND are supported with the household's income;
- In your care under a foster arrangement, or qualify as homeless, migrant, or runaway youth;
- Students attending Charleston School District, regardless of age.

A) List each child's name. Print each child's name. Use one line of the application for each child. When printing names, write one letter in each box. Stop if you run out of space. If there are more children present than lines on the application, attach a second piece of paper with all required information for the additional children.

B) Is the child a student at Charleston Schools? Mark 'Yes' or 'No' under the column titled "Student" to tell us which children attend Charleston School District. If you marked 'Yes,' write the grade level of the student in the 'Grade' column to the right. **C)** Do you have any foster children? If any children listed are foster children, mark the "Foster Child" box next to the child's name. If you are ONLY applying for foster children, after finishing **STEP 1**, go to **STEP 4**.

Foster children who live with you may count as members of your household and should be listed on your application. If you are applying for both foster and non-foster children, go to step 3.

D) Are any children homeless, migrant, or runaway? If you believe any child listed in this section meets this description, mark the "Homeless, Migrant, Runaway" box next to the child's name and complete all steps of the application.

STEP 2: DO ANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)?

If anyone in your household (including you) currently participates in one or more of the assistance programs listed below, your children are eligible for free school meals:

• The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A) If no one in your household participates SNAP:

• Leave STEP 2 blank and go to STEP 3.

B) If anyone in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:

- Write a case number or identified for SNAP. You only need to provide one case number. If you participate in SNAP and do not know your case number or identified, contact: Franklin County Department of Human Services at 479-667-2379.
- Go to STEP 4.

STEP 3: REPORT INCOME FOR ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

How do I report my income?

- Use the charts titled "Sources of Income for Adults" and "Sources of Income for Children," printed on the back side of the application form to determine if your household has income to report.
- Report all amounts in GROSS INCOME ONLY. Report all income in whole dollars. Do not include cents.
 - Gross income is the total income received before taxes
 - Many people think of income as the amount they "take home" and not the total, "gross" amount. Make sure that the income you report on this application has NOT been reduced to pay for taxes, insurance premiums, or any other amounts taken from your pay.

- Write a "0" in any fields where there is no income to report. Any income fields left empty or blank will also be counted as a zero. If you write '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. If local officials suspect that your household income was reported incorrectly, your application will be investigated.
- Mark how often each type of income is received using the check boxes to the right of each field.

3.A. REPORT INCOME EARNED BY CHILDREN

A) Report all income earned or received by children. Report the combined gross income for ALL children listed in STEP 1 in your household in the box marked "Child Income." Only count foster children's income if you are applying for them together with the rest of your household.

What is Child Income? Child income is money received from outside your household that is paid DIRECTLY to your children. Many households do not have any child income.

3.B REPORT INCOME EARNED BY ADULTS

Who should I list here?

- When filling out this section, please include ALL adult members in your household who are living with you and share income and expenses, even if they are not related and even if they do not receive income of their own.
- Do NOT include:
 - o People who live with you but are not supported by your household's income AND do not contribute income to your household.
 - o Infants, Children and students already listed in STEP 1.
- B) List adult household members' names. Print the name of each household member in the boxes marked "Names of Adult Household Members (First and Last)." Do not list any household members you listed in STEP 1. If a child listed in STEP 1 has income, follow the instructions in STEP 3, part A.
- **C)** Report earnings from work. Report all income from work in the "Earnings from Work" field on the application. This is usually the money received from working at jobs. If you are a self-employed business or farm owner, you will report your net income.
- **What if I am self-employed?** Report income from that work as a net amount. This is calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of your business from its gross receipts or revenue.
- E) Report income from pensions/retirement/all other income. Report all income that applies in the "Pensions/Retirement/ All Other Income" field on the application.
- **F)** Report total household size. Enter the total number of household members in the field "Total Household Members (Children and Adults)." This number MUST be equal to the number of household members listed in **STEP 1** and **STEP 3**. If there are any members of your household that you have not listed on the application, go back and add them. It is very important to list all household members, as the size of your household affects your eligibility for free and reduced price meals.
- D) Report income from public assistance/child support/alimony. Report all income that applies in the "Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony" field on the application. Do not report the cash value of any public assistance benefits NOT listed on the chart. If income is received from child support or alimony, only report court-ordered payments. Informal but regular payments should be reported as "other" income in the next part.
- G) Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number. An adult household member must enter the last four digits of their Social Security Number in the space provided. You are eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social Security Number. If no adult household members have a Social Security Number, leave this space blank and mark the box to the right labeled "Check if no SSN."

STEP 4: CONTACT INFORMATION AND ADULT SIGNATURE

All applications must be signed by an adult member of the household. By signing the application, that household member is promising that all information has been truthfully and completely reported. Before completing this section, please also make sure you have read the privacy and civil rights statements on the back of the application.

- A) Provide your contact information. Write your current address in the fields provided if this information is available. If you have no permanent address, this does not make your children ineligible for free or reduced price school meals. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.
- **B) Print and sign your name.** Print the name of the adult signing the application and that person signs in the box "Signature of adult."
- C) Write today's date. In the space provided, write today's date in the box.
- D) Share children's racial and ethnic identities (optional). On the back of the application, we ask you to share information about your children's race and ethnicity. This field is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price school meals.

2023-2024 Household Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil)

STEP 1 List ALL	Household Members who are infants, children, ar	nd students up to and including grade	12 (if more spaces are required for ac	dditional names, attach another shee		
	Child's First Name	MI Child's Last Name	2	Name of School	Grade Student? Foster Home Yes No Child Migra	
Definition of Household Member : "Anyone who is living with you and shares income and expenses, even if not related." Children in Foster care and						/ay
children who meet the defini- tion of Homeless , Migrant or Runaway are eligible for free meals. Read How to Apply fo Free and Reduced Price					O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O	
STEP 2 Do any	Household Members (including you) currently par	ticipate in the following assistance pr	ogram: Supplemental Nutrition Assista	ance Program (SNAP)?		
If NO> Go to STEP 3. If YES	> Write a case number or identifier here, then go t	o STEP 4. (Do not complete STEP 3)	Write only one case nun	nber or identifier. Case Number or Id	dentifier:	
STEP 3 Report	: Income for ALL Household Members (Skip	this step if you answered 'Yes'	to STEP 2)			
	A. Child Income Sometimes children in the household earn or receive Household Members listed in STEP 1 here. B. All Adult Household Members (in the state of the		ne received by all	Child income \$ \qu	How often? Bi-Weekly 2x Month Monthly	
Are you unsure what income to include here?	List all Household Members not listed in STEP 1 (in dollars (no cents) only. If they do not receive incom				al gross income (before taxes) for each source in whole o report.	
Flip the page and review the charts titled "Sources	Name of Adult Household Members (First and Last)		w often? Public Assistar ekly 2x Month Monthly Child Support/	. Tion chain	Pensions/Retirement/ How often? All Other Income Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Month Mon	nthly
of Income" for more information.		\$ 0 0	\$	0000	\$ 0000)
The "Sources of Income for Children" chart will		\$ 0 0	\$	0 0 0 0	\$ 0000)
help you with the Child Income section.		\$ 0 0) O O \$	0 0 0 0	\$ 0 0 0 0) ₹
The "Sources of Income for Adults" chart will help		\$ 0 0) () () (s	0 0 0 0	\$ 0000	<i>)</i>
you with the All Adult Household Members section.	Total Household Members	\$ Last Four Digits of Social Security N) O O \$		\$	_
Section.	(Children and Adults)	Primary Wage Earner or Other Adult	X X X	XX	Check if no SSN.	
Disclosure (Optional)	O I do not want school o	fficials to share information from m	y free and reduced price meal applic	ation with Medicaid or the State Chi	ldren's Health Insurance Program (ArKids 1 st).	_
	information and adult signature formation on this application is true, and that all income is re n may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under a	ported. I understand that this information is giplicable State and Federal laws."	iven in connection with the receipt of Federal	funds, and that school officials may verify (ch	neck) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give	
0:			State Zin	Douting Phane on	d Email (Optional)	_
Street Address (if availabl	e) Apt#	City	State Zip	Dayume Phone an	и Етнап (Фрионат)	

INSTRUCTIONS Sources	of Income			Carrian of Lineau C	n A duite	
	Sources of Income for Children			Source of Income fo	r Adults	
Source of Child Income	Example (s)		Earnings from Work	Public Assistance/Alimony/ Child Support	Pensions/Retirement/ All Other Income	
Earnings from work	A child has a regular full or part-time job wh salary or wages.	ere they earn a regular	Salary, wages, cash bonuses Net income from self-	Unemployment benefits Worker's compensation Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Cash assistance from state or local government Alimony payments Child support payments	Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits)	
Social Security Disability Payments Survivor's Benefits	A child is blind or disabled and receives social A parent is disabled, retied, or deceased, an Security benefits.	•	employment (farm or business) If you are in the U.S. Military: Basic pay and cash bonuses (do not include combat pay, FSSA or		 Private pensions or disability benefits Regular income from trusts or estates Annuities 	
Income from person outside the household	A friend or extended family member regular money.	ly give a child spending	privatized housing allowances) •Allowances for off-base housing.		Investment income Earned interest Rental income	
Income from any other source	A child receives regular income form a priva or trust.	te pension fund, annuity,	food and clothing	Veteran's benefitsStrike benefits	Regular cash payments formoutside household	
OPTIONAL Children's I	lacial and Ethnic Identities					
Ethnicity (check one): Race (check one or more): The Richard B. Russell National School of the Richard B. Russell National School of the Information, but if you do not submit you must include the last four digits member who signs the application. You list a Supplemental Nutrition As you indicate that the adult househol your information to determine if your of the lunch and breakfast programs programs to help them evaluate, fur enforcement officials to help them located the Information Statement: This is accordance with federal civil right this institution is prohibited from discontinuation.	s explains what to do when you believe you have s law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA riminating on the basis of race, color, national or	plic or Latino Ive Asian Bl Explication. You do not have to give child for free or reduced price me e earner or other adult househol you apply on behalf of a foster of SNAP identifier for your child or a social security number. We will and for administration and enforceducation, health, and nutrition ors for program reviews, and law to be been treated unfairly. It is been treated unfairly. It is considered to be a considere	ack or African American The the seals alternative means of communication	unication to obtain program inform the responsible State or local Agerocice and TTY) or contact USDA thation complaint, a Complainant shourm which can be obtained online default/files/documents/USDA-OA ISDA office, by calling (866) 632-9 int's name, address, telephone nuricient detail to inform the Assistant is violation. The completed AD-302 and the Agriculture sistant Secretary for Civil Rights ence Avenue, SW	er than English. Persons with disabilities who requiation (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American acy that administers the program or USDA's TARGE prough the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 and complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program	
	r reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity				provider.	
Do not fill out For School School use only	ol Use Only			Annual Income Conversion:	show calculations	
Total Income:					Silow calculations	
Per: O Week O Eve	ry 2 Weeks O Twice a Month	O Month O Y	∕ear 2	,		
	SNAP:Categorically Eligible:			very 2 wksX 26=		
Eligibility: OFree O	Reduced O Denied		N	MonthlyX 12=		
Reason for denial :				nnualX 1= _		
Determining Official's Signatu	ro.	De	etermination Date:		2023-2024	