

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Rockford Public Schools** offers healthy meals every school day. Students may buy lunch for \$2.10/Elementary, \$2.25/Secondary. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. We sell reduced price lunches for \$.40 If a doctor has determined that your child has a disability, and the disability would prevent the child from eating the regular school meal, the school will make any substitution prescribed by a licensed physician at no extra charge. The physician's statement, including prescribed diet and/or substitution, must be submitted to the food service department at your school. For further information, please call **[name and phone number]**.

- 1. Do I need to fill out an application for each child?** No. Complete the application to apply for free and reduced price school meals. Use one Free and Reduced Price School Meals Family 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: **Vicki Stevenson, 4100 Kroes Rd., Rockford, MI 49341 (616)863-6037.**
- 2. Who can get free meals?** Children in households getting Food Assistance Program (FAP), Family Independence Program (FIP), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) and most foster children can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines.
- 3. Can homeless, runaway, and migrant children get free meals?** Please call **John Henry, (616) 863-6037**, homeless liaison or migrant coordinator to see if your child(ren) qualify if you have not been informed that they will get free meals.
- 4. 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 Income Guidelines Chart.
- 5. Should I fill out an application if I got a letter this school year saying my children are approved for free or reduced price meals?** Please read the letter you got carefully and follow any instructions if provided. Call the school at **(616)863-6037** if you have questions.
- 6. 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.
- 7. I get WIC. Can my child(ren) get free meals?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. An application must be filled out by WIC households.
- 8. Will the information I give be checked?** Yes, we may ask you to send written proof of any information provided on the application.
- 9. If I don't qualify now, may I apply later?** Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your house-hold size goes up, income goes down, or if you start getting FAP, FIP, FDPIR, or other benefits. If you lose your job, your children may be able to get free or reduced price meals.
- 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: **John Henry, (616) 863-6037.**
- 11. 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 a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced price meals.
- 12. 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 relative, or friends), including yourself and all children who live with you.
- 13. What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount that you normally get. For example, if you normally get \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only got \$900, put down that you get \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get it only sometimes.
- 14. We are in the military. Do we include our housing allowance as income?** If your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. All other allowances must be included in your gross income.
- 15. What if my child does not have health insurance?** Your children may qualify for low cost or free health insurance through MICHild and Healthy Kids Program. To apply online, go to www.michigan.gov/michild or call 1-888-988-6300 for help or to request a paper application.
- 16. My spouse is deployed to a combat zone. Is her combat pay counted as income?** No, if the combat pay is received in addition to her basic pay because of her deployment and it wasn't received before 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 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-800-481-4989.

Sincerely,

Vicki Stevenson
Food Services
(616)863-6037

Application Instructions

If you are applying for a FOSTER CHILD, follow these instructions:

- Part 1: Check the box and list the child's personal use monthly income, if any.
- Part 2: Skip this part.
- Part 3: Skip this part.
- Part 4: **Use a separate application for each foster child.** List the child's name, school, and grade. Do not list other household members. A foster child is considered a household of one.
- Part 5: Skip this part.
- Part 6: Sign and date the form. A social security number is not necessary.
- Part 7: Answer this question if you choose to.
- Part 8: Answer this question if you choose to.

[If you are applying for a homeless, migrant, or runaway child check the appropriate box and contact your Homeless Liaison or Migrant Coordinator.] Fill out application by following instructions for ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS.

If anyone in your household receives Food Assistance Program (FAP), Family Independence Program (FIP), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), follow these instructions:

- Part 1: Skip this part.
- Part 2: Skip this part.
- Part 3: Answer the question by circling either YES or NO. If you circle YES, you must list a case number in the space provided for the specific program.
- Part 4: Fill out with only the student's names, grades and schools in your household. Filling in non-student names is not necessary.
- Part 5: Skip this part.
- Part 6: Sign and date the form. A social security number is not necessary.

ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS, including WIC households, follow these instructions:

- Part 1: Skip this part.
- Part 2: Check the appropriate box, if any.
- Part 3: Skip this part if it was not applicable to your household.
- Part 4: Follow these instructions to report **all** household members:
Column 1 - Name: List the first and last name of **each** person living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends). You must include yourself and all children living with you. Be sure to include all students. Attach another sheet of paper if needed.
Column 2 - Grade: Fill in the grade of each student in your household.
Column 3 - School Name: Fill in the school name each student in your household is attending.
- Part 5: **Gross Income:** Use this section to report all income in your household from the previous month: For all household members (including students, young children, grandparents, relatives, etc) that are not receiving any income, **circle the \$0 indicating NO income for that person.**
- Next to each person's first and last name list each type of income received last month. *Next to the amount circle how often the person got it (weekly, every 2 weeks, twice a month, or monthly).*
 - *Earnings from work:* List the gross income each person earned from work. This is not the same as take-home pay. **Gross income is the amount earned before taxes and other deductions.** Net income should **ONLY** be reported for self-owned business, farm, or rental income.
 - *All other income:* List the amount each person got last month from welfare, child support, and alimony in the next column. List the amount each person got last month from pensions, retirement, and Social Security in the respective column. List All Other Income sources in the last column. All Other Income includes Worker's Compensation, unemployment, strike benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's benefits (VA benefits), disability benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, and ANY OTHER INCOME.
- Part 6: An adult household member must sign and date the form, and list a **social security number** or check the box "I do not have a social security number."
- Part 7: Skip this part.
- Part 8: Answer this question if you choose to.