

# FREE AND REDUCED MEALS

## Quick Fact Sheet

Did you know .....

- Students residing in households that receive Food Stamps are automatically qualified for free breakfast and lunch.
- Students residing in households that receive Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) are automatically qualified for free breakfast and lunch.
- Most foster children are automatically entitled to free meals regardless of their foster family's income.
- Certified homeless, migrant and runaway children are automatically entitled to free meals regardless of income.
- Once you are approved for free or reduced meals, that status remains in effect for the entire school year.
- Many families don't realize that they qualify for reduced meals. A family of four making less than \$39,200 per year qualifies for reduced meals.

How do I apply for free/reduced meals?

- If you receive food stamps or TANF you may ask for a Direct Certification Letter from the Office of Social Services OR you may complete a free/reduced meals application and supply us with your food stamp case # or TANF case #.
- If you have a Direct Certification Letter no application is needed. Just forward the letter to the school.
- If you do not receive these types of public assistance, you may apply based on your household income. Complete a free/reduced meals application and supply us with your income information.

Is the application process complicated?

- The application is not difficult to complete and will only take a few moments. As head of household, you need to provide your name, address and social security number. You need to provide a food stamp #, TANF # or information about your income. You need to provide the names of the people living in

your household. Then you simply sign and date the application.

- Applications can be turned in at any time during the school year. Mail it to the school or send it in with your child.
- Under most circumstances, your application will be acted on the same day it is received.
- You will receive a letter letting you know if your application has been approved for free or reduced meals.