

2010-2011 FREE/REDUCED LUNCH PROGRAM

Child(ren) need healthy meals/milk to learn. Skokie School District 68 offers healthy meals/milk every school day. **Breakfast costs \$1.50; Lunch costs \$2.55; Milk costs \$.55.** Your child(ren) may qualify for free or reduced-price meals if your household income falls within the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Reduced-price is **\$0.30** for breakfast and **\$0.40** for lunch. To apply for free or reduced-price meals, use the Household Eligibility Application, which is enclosed. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information and return the completed application to the school district office located at 9440 Kenton Ave., Skokie, District Contact: Barbara Oshita.

For school year 2010-2011 only, the United States Department of Agriculture has provided a waiver from the requirement to include the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines for reduced price meals on this letter. All households are encouraged to apply for meal benefits. (USDA Authority Section 125(1) of the NSLA).

- 1. Do I need to fill out a separate application for each child?** No. *Use one Household Eligibility Application* for all students in your household per school district. Be sure to fill out all required information and return **it to person listed above**. Incomplete applications will be denied.
- 2. Who can get free meals?** Most children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); most foster children; homeless, runaway and migrant farm workers; or if your household income is within the limits set on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.
- 3. Who can get reduced-price meals?** Your household income must fall within the reduced-price limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.
- 4. My child receives SNAP or TANF benefits. The school provided me a letter stating that my child is approved for free meals via Direct Certification. Do I need fill out an application?** No. You do not need to do anything to receive the free meals. However, if you do not wish to receive the free meals, you should notify district contact immediately.
- 5. My child's application was approved last year. Do I need to fill out another one?** Yes. You must apply every year unless the district notified you that your child is eligible for the new school year via to Direct Certification.
- 6. I get Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). 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.
- 7. Will the information I give be checked?** Yes. We may ask you to provide proof of the information you give.
- 8. If I do not qualify now, may I apply later?** Yes. You may apply again at any time during the school year.
- 9. What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application?** You should call or write to the district contact listed above. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to the person listed above.
- 10. 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 relatives, or friends). You must include 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. My spouse is deployed to a combat zone. Is combat pay counted as income?** No. If the combat pay is received in addition to basic pay because of deployment and it wasn't received before he/she was deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.

Additional assistance may be available to you and your family through the Illinois Department of Human Services. To find out how to apply for SNAP, TANF or other assistance benefits, contact the Illinois Department of Human Services at: Telephone: (800) 843-6154 (voice) or (800) 447-6404 (TTY) or Internet: www.dhs.state.il.us. If you have more questions about this program or require assistance in completing the application, please contact Barbara Oshita by telephone: 847/676-9000 or email: boshita@skokie68.org.