



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **DO I NEED TO COMPLETE AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD?** No. Use only one Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to complete all required information. Return the completed application to: Your student's school or 1919 5th Street Davis CA 95616.

2. **WHO CAN RECEIVE FREE MEALS?** All children in households receiving benefits from CalFresh, California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or Kinship Guardianship Assistance and Payment (Kin-GAP) program can receive free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can receive free meals if your household's gross income is within the free limits on the federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.



If you have received a NOTICE of DIRECT CERTIFICATION for free meals, do not complete the application. But do let the school know if any children in your household are not listed on the Notice of Direct Certification you received.

3. **CAN FOSTER CHILDREN RECEIVE FREE MEALS?** Yes, foster children who are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals, but their meal eligibility is not extended to other non-foster children living in the same household. Households with foster/non-foster children are encouraged to complete an application since foster children may be counted as a household member, which may help the foster family's non-foster children qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on the household size and income.

4. CAN HOMELESS, RUNAWAY, HEAD START, AND MIGRANT CHILDREN RECEIVE FREE

MEALS? Yes, children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, Head Start, or migrant are eligible for free meals. If you believe that the children in your household meet these descriptions and have not been told your children will receive free meals, please call or e-mail the [Laura Juanitas Director of Student Support Services

ljanitas@djud.net

5. WHO CAN RECEIVE REDUCED-PRICE MEALS? Your children can receive reduced-price meals if your household income is within the reduced-price limits on the Income Eligibility Guidelines chart shown on the last page of the application packet.

6. SHOULD I COMPLETE AN APPLICATION PACKET IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR STATING MY CHILDREN ARE APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? No, but please read the letter you received carefully and follow its instructions. Call Sande Royval at [530-759-2186] if you have any questions.

7. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO COMPLETE ANEW

ONE? Yes, if you want to participate in the meal program. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. A new application is needed, unless the school told you that your child is eligible for free/reduced-price meals for the new school year.

8. I RECEIVE WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC) BENEFITS; CAN MY CHILDREN RECEIVE FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please send in an application.

9. WILL THE INFORMATION I PROVIDE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send in written proof of your income and the interval in which you receive it.

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 and reduced-price meals if the household income drops below the free and reduced-price income limit.

11. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION REGARDING MY APPLICATION? You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: [Mark Powell, 1919 5th Street Davis Ca. 95616, 530-759-2186, mpowell@djUSD.net].

12. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You or your children 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 financially, 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 \$1,000 each month, but you missed some work last month and made only \$900, state on the application that you made \$1,000 per month. If you normally receive overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only occasionally work overtime. If you have lost your 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 receive an off-base housing allowance, you must include it 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 HER COMBAT PAY COUNTED AS INCOME IN OUR HOUSEHOLD? No. If the combat pay is received in addition to basic pay because of their deployment and it was not received before they were deployed, do not include combat pay as income. Contact your child's school for more information.

17. MY FAMILY NEEDS ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND/OR RESOURCES ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for CalFresh or other program assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office.

18. MY FAMILY NEEDS ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND/OR RESOURCES ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for CalFresh or other program assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office.