

**PULASKI COUNTY SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS**

Pulaski County Special School District today announces its policy for providing free and reduced price meals for children served under the **National School Lunch Program, and/or School Breakfast Program. Each school and/or the central office** has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party. The price charged for a paid student breakfast is **(\$1.50)**; the price charged for a paid student lunch is **(\$2.25 for elementary, \$2.50 for secondary)**.

HOUSEHOLD APPLICATIONS

The household size and income criteria identified below will be used to determine eligibility for free and reduced price benefits for SY 2012-13. Children from households whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced price meals.

| Household Size | Federal Poverty Guidelines | FREE MEALS – 130% | | | | | REDUCED PRICE MEALS – 185% | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|----------------------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|
| | | Annual | Monthly | Twice per Month | Every Two Weeks | Weekly | Annual | Monthly | Twice per Month | Every Two Weeks | Weekly |
| 1 | \$ 11,170 | 14,521 | 1,211 | 606 | 559 | 280 | 20,665 | 1,723 | 862 | 795 | 398 |
| 2 | \$ 15,130 | 19,669 | 1,640 | 820 | 757 | 379 | 27,991 | 2,333 | 1,167 | 1,077 | 539 |
| 3 | \$ 19,090 | 24,817 | 2,069 | 1,035 | 955 | 478 | 35,317 | 2,944 | 1,472 | 1,359 | 680 |
| 4 | \$ 23,050 | 29,965 | 2,498 | 1,249 | 1,153 | 577 | 42,643 | 3,554 | 1,777 | 1,641 | 821 |
| 5 | \$ 27,010 | 35,113 | 2,927 | 1,464 | 1,351 | 676 | 49,969 | 4,165 | 2,083 | 1,922 | 961 |
| 6 | \$ 30,970 | 40,261 | 3,356 | 1,678 | 1,549 | 775 | 57,295 | 4,775 | 2,388 | 2,204 | 1,102 |
| 7 | \$ 34,930 | 45,409 | 3,785 | 1,893 | 1,747 | 874 | 64,621 | 5,386 | 2,693 | 2,486 | 1,243 |
| 8 | \$ 38,890 | 50,557 | 4,214 | 2,107 | 1,945 | 973 | 71,947 | 5,996 | 2,998 | 2,768 | 1,384 |
| Each Add'l person add | \$ 3,960 | 5,148 | 429 | 215 | 198 | 99 | 7,326 | 611 | 306 | 282 | 141 |

Household application forms are being distributed by the school with a letter informing households of the availability of free and reduced price meals for their children. **Only one application should be submitted for each household.** Applications are also available at the principal's office in each school. To apply for free or reduced price meals, households must complete the application and return it to the school. Applications cannot be approved unless it contains complete information as described in the instructions provided with the application. Applications may be submitted at any time during the school year as circumstances change. The information households provide on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and verification of data.

Applications may be subject to verification at any time during the school year by school officials.

CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY

Children who are members of a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly food stamps, household are categorically eligible for free meals. School officials will determine eligibility for free meals based on documentation obtained directly from the SNAP office. School officials will notify households of their eligibility. Households who are notified of their eligibility but who do not want their children to receive free meals must contact the school. SNAP households should complete an application if they are not notified of their eligibility by **August 20, 2012**.

Households with children who are members of currently approved Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits (formerly food stamps) may submit application with abbreviated information as described in the application instructions.

Children who are enrolled in Head Start / Even Start programs are categorically eligible for free meals. Contact **Lisa Rogers at 501-490-5770** with questions regarding Head Start / Even Start meal benefits.

Children certified as migrant, homeless or runaway by the district are categorically eligible for free meals. Contact **Lisa Rogers at 501-490-5770** with questions regarding migrant, homeless or runaway meal benefits.

Foster children who are the legal responsibility of a welfare agency or court are also eligible for benefits regardless of the income of the household with whom they reside. Eligibility for the foster child is based on the child being the legal responsibility of welfare agency or court. An application for a household that includes both foster children and non-foster must be completed for eligibility to be determined for the non-foster children. Contact **Lisa Rogers at 501-490-5770** with questions regarding foster children.

Children in households that receive WIC may be eligible for benefits. An application must be completed for determination of eligibility.

If a household member becomes unemployed during the school year, the household **maybe** eligible for free or reduced price meals PROVIDED that the loss of income causes the household income to be within the eligibility criteria. An application should be completed for determination of eligibility benefits.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced price meal policy, Lisa Rogers, **Free and Reduced Specialist** will review applications and determine eligibility. 501-490-5770.

Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the determining official may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either to:

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <u>Regena English, Director Student Nutrition</u> Hearing Official | <u>501-490-5800</u> Phone Number |
|---|-------------------------------------|

A household may SUBMIT an application ANYTIME DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.

Non-discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. "In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."