

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Humble ISD** offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs for secondary schools (Middle & High Schools) are **\$1.50**; lunch costs **\$2.65**. Breakfast costs **\$1.40** for elementary level; lunch costs **\$2.25**. Your child(ren) may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals. Reduced price is **\$0.30** for breakfast and **\$0.40** for lunch. This packet includes an application for free or reduced price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. Who can get free or reduced price meals?

- All children in households receiving benefits from SNAP, FDPIR, or TANF, are eligible for free meals.
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- Children may receive free or reduced price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

Income Eligibility Reduced-Price Guidelines—July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018					
Family Size	Annually	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$22,311	1,860	930	859	430
2	30,044	2,504	1,252	1,156	578
3	37,777	3,149	1,575	1,453	727
4	45,510	3,793	1,897	1,751	876
5	53,243	4,437	2,219	2,048	1,024
6	60,976	5,082	2,541	2,346	1,173
7	68,709	5,726	2,863	2,643	1,322
8	76,442	6,371	3,186	2,941	1,471
For each additional family member add:					
	7,733	645	323	298	149

- 2. How do I know if my children qualify as homeless, migrant, or runaway?** Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call **the HISD Homeless Liaison @ 281-641-8408** or the **Migrant Coordinator @ 281-641-8382**.
- 3. Do I need to fill out an application for each child?** No. Only 1 (one) application is needed per household online.
- 4. Should I fill out an application if I received a letter this school year saying my children are already approved for free meals?** No, but please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact **the Child Nutrition Center, Federal Program Specialist at 281-641-8471** or email **Julie.Naldrett@HumbleISD.net** immediately.
- 5. Can I apply online?** Yes! You are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application if you are able. The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit <https://schoolcafe.com> to begin or to learn more about the online application process. Contact **the Child Nutrition Center, Federal Program Specialist at 281-641-8471** or email **Julie.Naldrett@HumbleISD.net** if you have any questions about the online application.
- 6. My child's application was approved last year. Do I need to fill out a new one?** Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year, through **October 9th, 2017**. You must complete a new application unless the Child Nutrition Center told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not send in a new application that is approved by the Child Nutrition Center or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for meals.
- 7. I get WIC. Can my children get free meals?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please send in an application.
- 8. Will the information I give be checked?** Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
- 9. If I don't 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 income limit.
- 10. What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application?** You should talk to the Child Nutrition Department at 281-641-8471. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: **Dr. Roger Brown, Assistant Superintendent, P.O. Box 2000, Humble, TX 77347** or phone **281-641-8712**.
- 11. May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen?** Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced price meals.
- 12. What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
- 13. What if some household members have no income to report?** Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application, or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.
- 14. We are in the military. Do we report our income differently?** Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.
- 15. What if there isn't enough space on the application for my family?** List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper, and attach it to your application. Contact **the Child Nutrition Center, Federal Program Specialist at 281-641-8471** or email **Julie.Naldrett@HumbleISD.net** to receive a second application.
- 16. My family needs more help. Are there other programs we might apply for?** To find out how to apply for SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 2-1-1.

If you have other questions or need help, call **281-641-8460** for English or **281-641-8472** for Spanish.

Sincerely,

Shirley Parker

Shirley Parker
Director of Child Nutrition

Privacy Act Statement: This explains how we will use the information you give us. The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We MAY share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

Non-Discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 1-800-795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.