

DR. JOSEPH P. BURKE
Superintendent of Schools



***“Student Success...
Whatever it takes”***

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August 10, 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Monroe County School District offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.75; lunch costs \$2.25 for elementary students and \$2.50 for middle/high school students. Your children may qualify for free meals or reduce price meals. Reduced price is \$0.30 for breakfast and \$0.40 for lunch.

- 1. Do I need to fill out an application for each child?** No. Complete the application to apply for free or reduced price meals. Use one Free and Reduce Price Schools Meals Applications for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. **Return the completed application to your child’s school office or the Food Service Department at 241 Trumbo Road, Key West, FL 33040.**
- 2. Who can get free meals?** Children in households getting Food Stamps or TANF and most foster children can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free price meals if your household income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines.
- 3. Can homeless, runaway and migrant children get free meals?** If they don’t already qualify for free meals, please call Frances England at 305-293-1400 x 53370.
- 4. Who can get reduced price meals?** Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal income Chart as shown on the application.
- 5. Should I fill out an application if I got a letter this year saying my children are approved for free or reduced price meals?** Please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions.
- 6. I get WIC. Can my child(ren) get free meals.?** You must first complete an application. Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals.
- 7. Will the information I give be checked?** Yes. We will request verification /proof as part of the approval process.
- 8. If I don’t qualify now, may I apply later?** Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down or if you receive Food Stamps, TANF or other benefits. If you lose your job, your children may be able to get free or reduced price meals.

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- 9. What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application?** You should talk to school officials. You may also ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: EEOC Officer, Sergio Sanchez, 241 Trumbo Road, Key West, FL 33040, Ph. 305-293-1400 x 53389.
- 10. May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen?** Yes. You and your child (ren) do not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced price meals.
- 11. 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.
- 12. What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount you normally get. For example, if you normally get \$1,000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only got \$900, put down that you get \$1,000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you only get it sometimes.
- 13. 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.
- 14. When foster parents apply for benefits for their own children, do they include their foster children as household members?** No. Each foster child, including a preschool foster child, is a household of one; foster children are not included in the foster parents' household.

If you have other questions or need help, please call Linda Roberts in the Food Services Department at 305-293-1400 x 53355.

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