

## PUBLIC RELEASE

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### Public Release

**[Name of School/School District]** today announced its updated policy for free and reduced-price meals for children served in schools under the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program for school year **2026-2027**. **[school district]** will participate in delayed implementation of the Provision 2 Special Assistance Alternative for determining eligibility for free and reduced-price school meals. Delayed implementation permits schools establishing claiming percentages for Provision 2 to charge participating students for meals in the first claiming period of the base year. This exception is permitted to assist schools in securing completed free and reduced-price applications from households which might not otherwise apply if there is no charge for meals.

**Under Provision 2 all children will receive meals at no charge regardless of their eligibility category.** However, the district requests that households eligible for free and reduced-price meals complete the Free and Reduced-Price Meals application. Provision 2 reduces the application process to once every 4 years, and the approved eligibility will be used to obtain proper reimbursement for the total meals served so the district can continue providing meals to all children at no charge.

Households will be notified of their children’s eligibility for free meals based on their participation (or a household member’s participation) in the: SNAP; FDPIR; MEDICAID or TANF. When known to **[Name of School/School District]**, households will be notified of any child’s eligibility for free meals based on the individual child’s designation as Homeless, Migrant, Runaway, a foster child, or enrolled in Head Start or an eligible pre-kindergarten program.

Children need healthy meals to learn. **[Name of School/School District]** offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast and lunch meals will follow the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) guidelines for healthy school meals, so please encourage students to participate. “In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.”

Parents or guardians who need further information may contact **[insert name here]**, Child Nutrition Program Director **[insert contact info]**.

If you have other questions or need help, call **[District Representative Signature] [phone number]**.

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- 1. Mail:** U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- 2. Fax:** (202) 690-7442; or
- 3. Email:** [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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