

**LETTER TO PARENTS
NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM/SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Chillicothe R-II Schools offer healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$.80; lunch costs \$1.45 for elementary and Breakfast costs \$1.05 and lunch costs \$1.65 for Middle School and High School students. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is \$.30 for breakfast and \$.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 Reduced Price School Meals Application 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: either your child's school or drop off or mail to Chillicothe R-II Schools; PO BOX 530; Chillicothe, MO 64601.**
- 2. Who can get free meals?** All children in households getting Food Stamps, Temporary Assistance, or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations and most foster children can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free 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?** Please call the school district to see if your child(ren) qualify, if you have not been informed that they will get free meals.
- 4. Who can get reduced price meals?** Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits.
- 5. Should I fill out an application if I got a letter this school year saying my children are approved for free or reduced meals?** Do not complete the attached application if you have recently received notification from your school that your child(ren) has been certified to receive free meal benefits for the 2010-2011 school year.
- 6. I get WIC. Can my child(ren) get free meals?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please fill out an application.
- 7. Will the information I give be checked?** Yes, we may ask you to send written proof.
- 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 start getting Food Stamps, Temporary Assistance or other benefits. If you lose your job, your child(ren) may be able to get free or reduced price meals.
- 9. What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application?** You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Dr. Linda Gray Smith; PO BOX 530; Chillicothe, MO 64601; phone 646-4566.
- 10. May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen?** Yes. You or 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 that 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 get it only 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. Exclude military combat pay received by service members during a deployment. All other allowances must be included in your gross income.

If you have other question or need help, call **Pam Thompson at 646-0700.**

Sincerely,

Dr. Linda Gray Smith

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