FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Summerfield Schools** offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.25 for elementary and \$1.50 for Jr./Sr. High School; lunch costs \$2.75 for elementary and \$3.20 for Jr./Sr. High School. Your children 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 the Food Assistance Program (FAP), Family Independence Program (FIP), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) 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 participating in their school's Head Start program 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 of 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.

Household Size	Annually	Monthly	Weekly
1	25,142	2,096	484
2	33,874	2,823	652
3	42,606	3,551	820
4	51,338	4,279	988
5	60,070	5,006	1,156
6	68,802	5,734	1,324
7	77,534	6,462	1,492
8	86,266	7,189	1,659
Each additional person:	8.732	728	168

FEDERAL INCOME ELIGIBILITY CHART for School Year 2022-2023

- 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 or e-mail Mrs. Heather Brescol, Families in Transition/Migrant Coordinator, Phone: 734-279-1012 ext. 107, email: brescol@summerfield.k12.mi.us.
- 3. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. *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: **Ms. Amanda Pena, Phone: 734-279-1035 ext. 124, email:** penaa@summerfield.k12.mi.us.
- 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 received carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact **Ms. Amanda Pena, Phone: 734-279-1035 ext. 124, email:** penaa@summerfield.k12.mi.us 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 www.summerfield.k12.mi.us to begin or to learn

more about the online application process. Contact **Ms. Amanda Pena, Phone: 734-279-1035 ext. 124, email:** penaa@summerfield.k12.mi.us 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 14, 2022.** You must send in a new application unless the school 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 school 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 <u>may</u> 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 school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Mr. Scott Salow, 17555 Ida West Road, Petersburg, MI 49270, Phone: 734-279-1035 ext. 126.
- 11. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOULD 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 <u>normally</u> 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 occasionally. 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 Ms. Amanda Pena, Phone: 734-279-1035 ext. 124, email: penaa@summerfield.k12.mi.us 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 **Food Assistance Program (FAP)** or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office https://newmibridges.michigan.gov/s/isd-partnershiplanding?language=en US.

If you have other questions or need help, call 734-279-1035 ext. 124

Sincerely,

Scott Salow Superintendent

HOW TO APPLY FOR FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Please use these instructions to help you fill out the application for free or reduced-price school meals. You only need to submit one application per household, even if your children attend more than one school in Summerfield Schools. The application must be filled out completely to certify your children for free or reduced price school meals. Please follow these instructions in order! Each step of the instructions is the same as the steps on your application. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please contact Ms. Amanda Pena, Phone: 734-279-1035 ext. 124, email: penaa@summerfield.k12.mi.us.

PLEASE USE A PEN (NOT A PENCIL) WHEN FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION AND DO YOUR BEST TO PRINT CLEARLY.

STEP 1: LIST ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS WHO ARE INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND STUDENTS UP TO AND INCLUDING GRADE 12

Tell us how many infants, children, and school students live in your household. They do NOT have to be related to you to be a part of your household. **Who should I list here?** When filling out this section, please include ALL members in your household who are:

- Children age 18 or under AND are supported with the household's income;
- In your care under a foster arrangement, or qualify as homeless, migrant, or runaway youth;
- Students attending Summerfield Schools, regardless of age.
- **A)** List each child's name. Print each child's name. Use one line of the application for each child. When printing names, write one letter in each box. Stop if you run out of space. If there are more children present than lines on the application, attach a second piece of paper with all required information for the additional children.
- **B)** Is the child a student at Summerfield Schools? Mark 'Yes' or 'No' under the column titled "Student" to tell us which children attend Summerfield Schools. If you marked 'Yes,' write the grade level of the student in the 'Grade' column to the right.
- **C) Do you have any foster children?** If any children listed are foster children, mark the "Foster Child" box next to the child's name. If you are ONLY applying for foster children, after finishing **STEP 1**, go to **STEP 4**.
- <u>Foster children who live with you may count as members of your household and should be listed on your application.</u> If you are applying for both foster and non-foster children, go to step 3.
- **D)** Are any children homeless, migrant, or runaway? If you believe any child listed in this section meets this description, mark the "Homeless, Migrant, Runaway" box next to the child's name and complete all steps of the application.

STEP 2: DO ANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN SNAP, TANF, OR FDPIR?

If anyone in your household (including you) currently participates in one or more of the assistance programs listed below, your children are eligible for free school meals:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Michigan EBT.
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).
- The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).
- A) If no one in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:
- Leave STEP 2 blank and go to STEP 3.
- B) If anyone in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:
- Write a case number for SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR. You only need to provide one case number. If you participate in one of these programs and do not know your case number, contact: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

 Go to **STEP 4**.

STEP 3: REPORT INCOME FOR ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

How do I report my income?

- Use the charts titled "Sources of Income for Adults" and "Sources of Income for Children," printed on the back side of the application form to determine if your household has income to report.
- Report all amounts in GROSS INCOME ONLY. Report all income in whole dollars. Do not include cents.
 - o Gross income is the total income received before taxes.
 - o Many people think of income as the amount they "take home" and not the total, "gross" amount. Make sure that the income you report on this application has NOT been reduced to pay for taxes, insurance premiums, or any other amounts taken from your pay.

STEP 3: REPORT INCOME FOR ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

- Write a "0" in any fields where there is no income to report. Any income fields left empty or blank will also be counted as a zero. If you write "0" or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. If local officials suspect that your household income was reported incorrectly, your application will be investigated.
- Mark how often each type of income is received using the check boxes to the right of each field.

3.A. REPORT INCOME EARNED BY CHILDREN

A) Report all income earned or received by children. Report the combined gross income for ALL children listed in STEP 1 in your household in the box marked "Child Income." Only count foster children's income if you are applying for them together with the rest of your household.

What is Child Income? Child income is money received from outside your household that is paid DIRECTLY to your children. Many households do not have any child income.

3.B. REPORT INCOME EARNED BY ADULTS

Who should I list here?

• When filling out this section, please include ALL adult members in your household who are living with you and share income and expenses, <u>even if they are</u> not related and even if they do not receive income of their own.

• Do NOT include:

- o People who live with you but are not supported by your household's income AND do not contribute income to your household.
- o Infants, Children and students already listed in **STEP 1.**
- **B)** List adult household members' names. Print the name of each household member in the boxes marked "Names of Adult Household Members (First and Last)." <u>Do not list any household members you listed in **STEP 1**</u>. If a child listed in **STEP 1** has income, follow the instructions in **STEP 3**, part **A**.
- **C) Report earnings from work.** Report all income from work in the "Earnings from Work" field on the application. This is usually the money received from working at jobs. If you are a self-employed business or farm owner, you will report your net income.

What if I am self-employed? Report income from that work as a net amount. This is calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of your business from its gross receipts or revenue.

- **D) Report income from public assistance/child support/alimony.** Report all income that applies in the "Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony" field on the application. <u>Do not report the cash value of any public assistance benefits NOT listed on the chart.</u> If income is received from child support or alimony, only report court-ordered payments. Informal but regular payments should be reported as "other" income in the next part.
- **E)** Report income from pensions/retirement/all other income. Report all income that applies in the "Pensions/Retirement/ All Other Income" field on the application.
- **F)** Report total household size. Enter the total number of household members in the field "Total Household Members (Children and Adults)." This number MUST be equal to the number of household members listed in **STEP 1** and **STEP 3**. If there are any members of your household that you have not listed on the application, go back and add them. It is very important to list all household members, as the size of your household affects your eligibility for free and reduced-price meals.
- **G)** Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number. An adult household member must enter the last four digits of their Social Security Number in the space provided. You are eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social Security Number. If no adult household members have a Social Security Number, leave this space blank and mark the box to the right labeled "Check if no SSN."

STEP 4: CONTACT INFORMATION AND ADULT SIGNATURE

All applications must be signed by an adult member of the household. By signing the application, that household member is promising that all information has been truthfully and completely reported. Before completing this section, please also make sure you have read the privacy and civil rights statements on the back of the application.

- **A) Provide your contact information.** Write your current address in the fields provided if this information is available. If you have no permanent address, this does not make your children ineligible for free or reduced-price school meals. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.
- **B) Print and sign your name and write today's date.** Print the name of the adult signing the application and that person signs in the box "Signature of adult."
- C) Mail Completed Form to: Summerfield Schools, Attn: Amanda Pena, 17555 Ida West Road, Petersburg, MI 49270
- **D)** Share children's racial and ethnic identities (optional). On the back of the application, we ask you to share information about your children's race and ethnicity. This field is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals.

2022-2023 Household Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Apply online: One application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil) STEP 1: List ALL Household Members who are infants, children, and students up to and including grade 12 (if more lines are required for additional names, attach another sheet of paper) Definition of Household Member. "Anyone who is living with you and shares income and expenses, even if not related". Children in Foster care and children who meet definition of Homeless, Migrant or Runaway are eligible for free meals. Read How to Apply for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals for more information. PLEASE PRINT **Child's First Name** Child's Last Name Student? School Grade Foster **Homeless** Yes No. Child Migrant, Runaway ______ ______ STEP 2: Do any Household Members (including you) currently participate in one or more of the following assistance programs: SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR If NO > Go to STEP 3. If YES > Write a case number here, then go to STEP 4 (Do not complete STEP 3). Case Number: (Write only one case number in this space) STEP 3: Report income for ALL Household Members (Skip this step if you answered "YES" to STEP 2) Unsure what income to include here? Flip the page and review the charts titled, "Sources of Income", for more information. The "Sources of Income for Children" chart will help you with the Child Income section. The "Sources of Income for Adults" chart will help you with the All Adult Household Members Section. A. Child Income Child Income How Often? Please put an X Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Month Monthly Annually Sometimes children in the household earn or receive income. Please include the TOTAL income received by All Household Members listed in STEP 1 here. B. All Adult Household Members (including yourself) List all Household Members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. For each Household Member listed, if they do receive income, report total gross income (before taxes) for each source in whole dollars (no cents) only. If they do not receive income from any source, write "0". If you enter "0" or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. **PLEASE PRINT** Name of Adult Household Members (First and Last) Earnings from Work How Often? Public Assistance/ How Often? Pensions/Retirement/ How Often? Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Month Monthly Annually Alimony/Child Support Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Month Monthly Annually All Other Income Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Month Monthly Annually 1) _____ \$ _____ Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of Total Household Members Primary Wage Earner or Other Adult Household Member ____ ___ ____ Check if no SSN (Children and Adults)

STEP 4: Contact information and adult signature. Mail Completed Form to:

"I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal Funds, and that school officials may verify (check) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws".

Street Address (if available)

Apt#

City

State

Zip

Daytime Phone and Email (Optional)

Printed Name of Adult Signing Form

Signature of Adult

Today's Date

INSTRUCTIONS: Sources of Income						
Sources of Child Income		Examples				
Earnings from work		A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages				
Social Security		A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security Benefits.				
- Disability Payments		A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits.				
- Survivor's Benefits			,	•		
Income from person outside the household		A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money.				
Income from any other source		A child receives regular	income from a private p	ension fund, annuity, or trust.		
Sources of Adult Income	Examples					
	Salary, wages, cash bonuses / Net income from self-employment (farm or business) / If you are in the U.S. Military /					
Earnings from work	-Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances) -Allowances for off-base housing, food and clothing					
Public Assistance / Alimony / Child Support	-Unemployment Benefits -Workers compensation -Supplemental Security Income (SSI) -Cash assistance from State or local government -Alimony payments-Child support payments -Veteran's benefits -Strike benefits					
Pensions / Retirement / All Other Income	-Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits) -Private pensions or disability benefits -Annuities -Regular income from trusts or estates -Investment income -Earned interest -Regular cash payments from outside household					
Optional: Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities						
We are required to ask for information about your children(s and does not affect your child(s) eligibility for free or reduce		ormation is important and he	elps to make sure we are f	ully serving our community. Respond	ling to this section is optional	
Ethnicity (check one): Hispanic or Latino	☐ Not Hispanic o	r Latino				
Race (check one or more) American Indian	or Alaskan Native	Asian Black or A	African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific	Islander White	
The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires a meals. You must include the last four digits of the social sec on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutritio (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced-price m nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine	curity number of the adult hous on Assistance Program (SNAP d or when you indicate that the leals, and for administration ar	sehold member who signs the polyment of the polymen of the polymen adult household member and enforcement of the lunch	he application. The last for r Needy Families (TANF), signing the application doe and breakfast programs. \	ur digits of the social security number Program or Food Distribution Progran is not have a social security number. We MAY share your eligibility informat	is not required when you apply n on Indian Reservations We will use your information to tion with education, health, and	
In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Departments (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disab				bited from discriminating on the basis	of race, color, national origin,	
Program information may be made available in languages of audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the rethe Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.						
To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant s Complaint Form (https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/do a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the cor Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date (1) by: mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretar 1400 Independence Avenue, S Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;	ecuments/USDA-OASCR%20F mplainant's name, address, tel e of an alleged civil rights viola e ry for Civil Rights SW	P-Complaint-Form-0508-000 lephone number, and a writh ation. The completed AD-300	02-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail. ten description of the alleg 27 form or letter must be s 2; or e@usda.gov.	pdf), from any USDA office, by calling ed discriminatory action in sufficient d ubmitted to USDA	g (866) 632-9992, or by writing letail to inform the Assistant	
DO NOT FILL OUT: For School Use Only						
Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 Weeks >	< 26, Twice a Month x 24, Mor	nthly x 12				
Total Income: \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	Monthly \$ House	ehold Size:	Categorical Eligibili	ty: Eligibility: _	Free Reduced Denied	
Determining Official's Signature Date	Confirming Office	ial's Signature	 Date	Verifying Official's Signature	Date	

Sharing Information with Other Programs

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Based on the information you gave on your Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals, your child may qualify for other programs. For the following programs, we must have your permission to share your information. Sending in this form will not change whether your children get free or reduced-price meals.

Yes! **I DO** want school officials to share information from my Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals with:

☐ Pay to Participate (Athletics and Clubs).	(Name only will be shared. No financial information will be shared.)
If you check "Yes" to any or all of the boxes abo programs you checked.	ve, please fill out form below. Your information will be shared only with the
Child's Name:	School:
Printed Name:	Address:
Signature of Parent/Guardian:	Date:

For more information, you may call Ms. Amanda Pena at 734-279-1035 ext. 124.

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <u>USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form</u>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

- 2. **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- 3. **email:** program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

USDA Civil Rights Complaint Link:

https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf

Return this form to: Summerfield Schools, Attn: Amanda Pena, 17555 Ida West Rd., Petersburg, MI 49270