

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Aldine ISD offers healthy meals every school day. During the 2021-22 school year, meals will be provided at no cost to all students due to USDA provisions. It is still important to apply for meal benefits 1) to ensure that your household qualifies for P-EBT funds if they become available again, 2) to allow for meal status eligibility carryover the following school year, and 3) so that the district receives funding. This packet includes instructions to apply for free or reduced-price meal benefits. Paper applications are available at the Aldine ISD Child Nutrition office, but the quickest way to apply is online at: www.SchoolCafe.com

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 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 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, 2021–June 30, 2022					
Family Size	Annually	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$23,828	1,986	993	917	459
2	32,227	2,686	1,343	1,240	620
3	40,626	3,386	1,693	1,563	782
4	49,025	4,086	2,043	1,886	943
5	57,424	4,786	2,393	2,209	1,105
6	65,823	5,486	2,743	2,532	1,266
7	74,222	6,186	3,093	2,855	1,428
8	82,621	6,886	3,443	3,178	1,589
For each additional family member add:					
	8,399	700	350	324	162

2. **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: **Efrain Uribe, School Homeless Liaison/Migrant Coordinator, 2520 WW Thorne Dr., Houston, TX 77073, (281) 985-6425.**
3. **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. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
4. **If I don't qualify now, may I apply later?** Yes. Apply at any time during the school year. A child 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.
5. **What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount normally received. If a household member lost a job or had hours/wages reduced, use current income.
6. **We are in the military. Do we report our income differently?** Basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. Any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, or Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance payments count as income. If 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 excluded from income.
7. **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.
8. **Will application information be checked?** Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the reported household income.
9. **My family needs more help. Are there other programs we might apply for?** To find out how to apply for other benefits, contact your local assistance office or 2-1-1.
10. **Do I need to complete 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.
11. **Should I complete 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 **Aldine Child Nutrition Services at (281) 985-6441** immediately.

If you have other questions or need help, call **Customer Accounts at (281) 985-6441.**

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