

PUBLIC RELEASE – SY 2021-2022 FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS

The Van Buren School District today announces its policy for providing free and reduced price meals for children served under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. The VBSD Child Nutrition Office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party. The price charged for a paid student breakfast is \$0.00, and the price charged for a paid student lunch is \$2.85.

HOUSEHOLD APPLICATIONS

The household size and income criteria identified below will be used to determine eligibility for free and reduced price benefits for school year 2021-2022. Children from households whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced price meals.

Household Size	Federal Poverty Guidelines	FREE MEALS – 130%					REDUCED PRICE MEALS – 185%				
		Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	12,880	16,744	1,396	698	644	322	23,828	1,986	993	917	459
2	17,420	22,646	1,888	944	871	436	32,227	2,686	1,343	1,240	620
3	21,960	28,548	2,379	1,190	1,098	549	40,626	3,386	1,693	1,563	782
4	26,500	34,450	2,871	1,436	1,325	663	49,025	4,086	2,043	1,886	943
5	31,040	40,352	3,363	1,682	1,552	776	57,424	4,786	2,393	2,209	1,105
6	35,580	46,254	3,855	1,928	1,779	890	65,823	5,486	2,743	2,532	1,266
7	40,120	52,156	4,347	2,174	2,006	1,003	74,222	6,186	3,093	2,855	1,428
8	44,660	58,058	4,839	2,420	2,233	1,117	82,621	6,886	3,443	3,178	1,589
Each add'l person add	4,540	5,902	492	246	227	114	8,399	700	350	324	162

Household application forms are being distributed by the school with a letter informing households of the availability of free and reduced price meals for their children. **Only one application should be submitted for each household.** Applications are also available at the principal's office in each school. To apply for free or reduced price meals, households must complete the application and return it to the school. Applications will be considered incomplete if all information is not provided as described in the instructions provided with the application. Applications may be submitted at any time during the school year as circumstances change. The information households provide on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and verification of data.

Applications may be subject to verification at any time during the school year by school officials.

CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY

Children who are members of a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly food stamps, household are categorically eligible for free meals. School officials will determine eligibility for free meals based on documentation obtained directly from the SNAP office. School officials will notify households of their eligibility. Households who are notified of their eligibility but who do not want their children to receive free meals must contact the school. SNAP households should complete an application if they are not notified of their eligibility by August 2, 2021.

Households with children who are members of currently approved Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, formerly food stamps, may submit an application with abbreviated information as described in the application instructions.

Children certified as migrant, homeless or runaway by the district are categorically eligible for free meals. Contact Steve Davis at 479-474-7404 with questions regarding migrant, homeless or runaway meal benefits.

Foster children who are the legal responsibility of a welfare agency or court are also eligible for benefits regardless of the income of the household with whom they reside. Eligibility for the foster child is based on the child being the legal responsibility of welfare agency or court. An application for a household that includes both foster children and non-foster must be completed for eligibility to be determined for the non-foster children. Contact Karen Allen at 479-474-7942 with questions regarding foster children.

Children in households that receive WIC may be eligible for benefits. An application must be completed for determination of eligibility.

If a household member becomes unemployed during the school year, the household **may** be eligible for free or reduced price meals PROVIDED that the loss of income causes the household income to be within the eligibility criteria. An application should be completed for determination of eligibility benefits.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced price meal policy Tessa Clemmons will review applications and determine eligibility. 479-474-4736.

Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the determining official may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either to: Dr. Harold Jeffcoat at 479-474-7942.

A household may SUBMIT an application ANYTIME DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.

Nondiscrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint), (AD-3027) found online at: <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint>, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter 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;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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