

HOMER-CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Homer-Center School District** offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs **\$1.10**; lunch costs **\$2.10 at the elementary and \$2.35 at the high school**. 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: **M. Susan McLoughlin, Food Service Director, 65 Wildcat Lane, Homer City, PA 15748. 724-479-3601, Ext. 1144.** Families can also apply online for free or reduced school meals and other benefits at www.compass.state.pa.us.
- 2. WHO SHOULD I INCLUDE AS MEMBERS OF MY HOUSEHOLD?** You must include all those living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends), who share income and expenses. You must include yourself and all children living with you. If you live with other people who are economically independent (for example, people who you do not support, who do not share income with you or your children, and who pay a pro-rated share of expenses), do not include them.
- 3. WHO CAN GET FREE/REDUCED MEALS?** All children in households receiving benefits from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) can get free meals regardless of your income. This includes children living in the household who do not receive SNAP or TANF. Your children can get free/reduced meals if your household's gross income is within the free/reduced limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.
- 4. CAN FOSTER CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?** Yes, foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are eligible for free meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for free meals regardless of income and should be included on the household application.
- 5. CAN HOMELESS, RUNAWAY AND MIGRANT CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?** Yes, children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant qualify for free meals. If you haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail **Tammy Buffone at 724-479-3601, Ext. 3132, tbuffone@homercenter.org** to see if they qualify.
- 6. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS?** Please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school at **724-479-3601, Ext. 1144** if you have questions.
- 7. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT ANOTHER ONE?** Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. You must send in a new application by **September 24, 2013** unless the school told you that your child is eligible for free meals for the new school year.
- 8. 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.
- 9. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?** Yes and we may also ask you to send written proof.
- 10. 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 or reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
- 11. 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. Charles Koren, Superintendent, 65 Wildcat Lane, Homer City, PA 15748. 724-479-8080**
- 12. 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 U.S. citizens to qualify for free or reduced price meals.
- 13. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME?** List the amount that you normally 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 sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
- 14. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE INCLUDE OUR HOUSING ALLOWANCE AS INCOME?** If you get an off-base housing allowance, it must be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income.

15. **MY SPOUSE IS DEPLOYED TO A COMBAT ZONE. IS THEIR COMBAT PAY COUNTED AS INCOME?** No, if the combat pay is received in addition to their basic pay because of their deployment and it wasn't received before they were deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.
16. **MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR?** To find out how to apply for SNAP and/or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-800-692-7462 (1-800-451-5886 TDD number for individuals with hearing impairments).

If you have other questions or need help, call **724-479-3601, Ext. 1144**

Si necesita ayuda, por favor llame al teléfono: 724-479-3601, Ext. 1144

Si vous voudriez d'aide, contactez nous au numero: 724-479-3601, Ext. 1144

Your children may qualify for reduced price or free meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2013-2014			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$21,257	\$1,772	\$409
2	\$28,694	\$2,392	\$552
3	\$36,131	\$3,011	\$695
4	\$43,568	\$3,631	\$838
5	\$51,005	\$4,251	\$981
6	\$58,442	\$4,871	\$1,124
7	\$65,879	\$5,490	\$1,267
8	\$73,316	\$6,110	\$1,410
Each additional person:	\$7,437	\$620	\$144

Sincerely,

Dr. Charles Koren
Superintendent

Use of Information Statement: This explains how we will use the information you give us.

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We MAY share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination complaint form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING

A HOUSEHOLD MEMBER IS ANY CHILD OR ADULT LIVING WITH YOU.

IF YOUR HOUSEHOLD RECEIVES BENEFITS FROM SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) OR TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF), FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

- Part 1:** List the name and nine (9) digit case number of any household member (including adults) receiving SNAP or TANF benefits.
- Part 2:** Skip this part.
- Part 3:** Complete section A including ALL household members. List the child(ren)'s school they attend and grade. *Do not complete section B*
- Part 4:** Sign and date the form. Providing contact information could result in faster processing. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are not necessary.
- Part 5:** Complete this part if you choose.

IF ANY CHILD IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS HOMELESS, A MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY AND DOES NOT RECEIVE SNAP OR TANF BENEFITS, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

- Part 1:** Skip this part.
- Part 2:** If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway, call **Tammy Buffone at 724-479-3601, Ext. 3132.**
- Part 3:** In section A, list the child(ren)'s name. Indicate if the child(ren) is homeless, a migrant, or runaway by circling H for homeless; M for migrant; or R for a runaway. List what school they attend and their grade. Section B does not need to be completed.
- Part 4:** Sign and date the form. Providing contact information could result in faster processing. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are not necessary.
- Part 5:** Complete this part if you choose.

IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR A FOSTER CHILD, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

If all children in the household are foster children:

- Part 1:** Skip this part.
- Part 2:** Skip this part
- Part 3:** In section A, list the foster child(ren)'s name. Indicate each child is a foster by circling Fos. List what school they attend and their grade. Section B does not need to be completed.
- Part 4:** Sign and date the form. Providing contact information could result in faster processing. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are not necessary.
- Part 5:** Complete this part if you choose.

If some of the children in the household are foster children:

Complete the application for the family based on SNAP or TANF benefits, homeless/migrant/runaway status or household income as described in the other sections of this page. Include foster children as household members in Part 3 of the application, circling Fos. to indicate the foster status. Do not include income from SNAP, WIC Federal education benefits, and foster payments received by the family from the placing agency.

ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS, INCLUDING INCOME BASED AND WIC HOUSEHOLDS, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

- Part 1:** Skip this part.
- Part 2:** Skip this part.
- Part 3:** Follow these instructions to report total household income from this month or last month.
- **Section A – Name:** List all household members. List the child's school and grade. For any person, including children, with no income, you must check the "No Income" box.
 - **Section B – Gross Income and How Often It Was Received:** For each household member, list each type of income received for the month. You must tell us how often the money is received. Circle W for weekly, E for every other week, T for twice a month, or M for monthly. For earnings, be sure to list the **gross income**, not the pay you take-home. Gross income is the amount earned *before* taxes and other deductions. You should be able to find it on your pay stub or your employer can tell you. For other income, list the amount each person received for the month from welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's benefits (VA benefits), and disability benefits. Under *All Other Income*, list Worker's Compensation, unemployment or strike benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, and any other income. Do not include income from SNAP, WIC, Federal education benefits, and foster payments received by the family from the placing agency. For self-employed ONLY, under *Earnings from Work*, report income after expenses (NET income). This is for your business, farm, or rental property. Do not include income from SNAP, FDPIR, WIC or Federal education benefits. If you are in the Military Privatized Housing Initiative or get combat pay, do not include these allowances as income.
- Part 4:** Adult household member must sign and date the form as well as list the last four digits of their Social Security Number (or mark the box if s/he doesn't have one). Providing contact information could result in faster processing.

Part 5: Complete this part if you choose.

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 Weeks x 26, Twice A Month x 24 Monthly x 12

Total Income: _____ Per: Week, Every 2 Weeks, Twice A Month, Month, Year Household Size: _____

Eligibility: Free Reduced Denied Reason: _____; Categorically Eligible; Other Source Categorically Eligible; Date Withdrawn: _____

Determining Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____ Confirming Official's Signature (cannot be the Determining Official): _____ Date: _____

Signature of School Employee Completing Verification: _____ Date: _____

SHARING INFORMATION WITH MEDICAID/SCHIP

Dear Parent/Guardian:

If your children get free or reduced price school meals, they may also be able to get free or low-cost health insurance through Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). Children with health insurance are more likely to get regular health care and are less likely to miss school because of sickness.

Because health insurance is so important to children's well-being, *the law allows us to tell Medicaid and SCHIP that your children are eligible for free or reduced price meals, **unless you tell us not to.*** Medicaid and SCHIP only use the information to identify children who may be eligible for their programs. Program officials may contact you to offer to enroll your children. Filling out the Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application does not automatically enroll your children in health insurance.

If you do not want us to share your information with Medicaid or SCHIP, fill out the form below and send in (Sending in this form will not change whether your children get free or reduced price meals).

No! I DO NOT want information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application shared with Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

If you checked no, fill out the form below to ensure that your information is NOT shared for the child(ren) listed below:

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

For more information, you may call **[name]** at **[phone]** or e-mail at **[e-mail address]**.

Return this form to: [address] by [date].

SHARING INFORMATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

To save you time and effort, the information you gave on your Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application may be shared with other programs for which your children may qualify. 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.

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- Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with **[name of program specific to your school]**.
 - Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with **[name of program specific to your school]**.
 - Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with **[name of program specific to your school]**.

If you checked yes to any or all of the boxes above, fill out the form below to ensure that your information is shared for the child(ren) listed below. Your information will be shared only with the programs you checked.

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

For more information, you may call **[name]** at **[phone]** or e-mail at **[e-mail address]**.

Return this form to: **[address]** by **[date]**.