

Letter to Parents Regarding Free and Reduced Meals

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn and Fremont Public Schools offers breakfast and lunch meals every school day. Students may buy elementary lunch for \$2.00, MS & HS lunch for \$2.50 – 3.25, and elem breakfasts for \$1.35, MS/HS breakfast has been raised to \$1.50 due to the variety of items offered.

Your child(ren) may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. We sell reduced price lunches for 40 cents and reduced breakfasts for 30 cents.

If a doctor has determined that your child has a disability, and the disability would prevent the child from eating the regular school meal, the school will make any substitution prescribed by a licensed physician at no extra charge. The physician's statement, including prescribed diet and/or substitution, must be submitted in writing to the food service department at your school. For further information, please call John Rosenberg @ (231) 924-8160.

1. Do I need to fill out an application for each child? No. Complete one Free and Reduced School Meals Family Application for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all the required information. Return the completed application to: John Rosenberg, Fremont Middle School, 500 Woodrow Street, Fremont, MI 49412 or apply on line at www.LunchApp.com.

2. Who can get free meals? Children in households getting Food Assistance Program (FAP), Family Independence Program (FIP), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) 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 included in this newsletter and application.

3. 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. List foster children on the family application, a separate application is not needed, just check the Foster Child Box next to the student's name.

4. Can homeless, runaway, and migrant children get free meals? Yes, children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant qualify for free meals. Please fill out an application or call Tracy Sanchez at 231-924-0470, the homeless and migrant liaison, to see if your child(ren) qualify.

5. Who can get reduced meals? Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Income Guidelines included in this newsletter and on the application.

6. Should I fill out an application if I got a letter this school year saying my children are approved for free meals? Please read the letter you received carefully and follow the

instructions, generally you do not need to apply if you have received a recent approval letter. Call the school at 231-924-8160 if you have questions.

7. My child's application was approved last year. Do I need to fill out another application this year? Yes, your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few weeks of the current school year. You must send in a new application each year unless the school has informed you that your child has already been approved for the current school year.

8. I get Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Can my child(ren) get free meals? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. An application including income must be filled out to see if you qualify.

9. Will the information I give be checked? Yes, some applicants may be asked to send written proof of your income during the verification process.

10. 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 receiving FAP, FIP, FDPIR or other benefits. If you lose your job, your children may be able to get free or reduced price meals.

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:

Bing Hanson
450 E. Pine Street
Fremont, MI 49412
(231-924-2350).

12. May I apply if someone in my household is not a US citizen? Yes, you can. You or your child(ren) do not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced price meals.

13. 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) 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 the expenses) do not include them.

14. What if my income is not always the same? List the amount that you normally get. For example, if you normally get \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only got \$900, put down that you get \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if it is occasional extra income. If you lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.

15. 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.

16. What if my child does not have health insurance: Your children may qualify for low cost or free health insurance through MICHild and Healthy Kids Program. To apply online, go to www.michigan.gov/michild or call 1-888-988-6300 for help or to request a paper application.

17. My Spouse is deployed to a combat zone. Is his/her combat pay counted as income? No, if the combat pay is received in addition to his/her basic pay because of his/her deployment and it wasn't received before he/she was deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.

18. 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 or call 1-800-481-4989.

Sincerely,
John Rosenberg
Food Service Director
231-924-8160