

Media Release for Free and Reduced-Price Meals

Make appropriate changes as applicable to reflect the programs operated. Attach a copy of the current eligibility guidelines.

Flour Bluff I.S.D. today announced its policy for providing free and reduced-price meals for students served under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. Each school or the central office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

The household size and income criteria identified below will be used to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits. Students from households whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Foster children who are the legal responsibility of the state agency or court may also be eligible for benefits regardless of the income of the household with whom they reside. Eligibility for the foster student is based on the student's income.

Application forms are being distributed to all households with a letter informing households of the availability of free and reduced-price meals for their children. Applications also are available at the administration office in each school. To apply for free and reduced-price meals, households must fill out the application and return it to the school. Applications may be submitted anytime during the school year. The information households provide on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and verification of data.

Applications may be verified by the school officials at any time during the school year.

For school officials to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits, households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits (formerly Food Stamps)/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) only have to list their child's name and SNAP or TANF case number. An adult household member must sign the application.

Households that do not list a SNAP/TANF case number must list the names of all household members, the amount and source of the income received by each household member, and the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application. If the adult who signs the application does not have a Social Security number, the household member must indicate that a Social Security number is not available by writing the word "None," "No Number," or some indication that the person does not have a Social Security number. The application must be signed by an adult household member.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, Child Nutrition Director will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the official may wish to discuss the decision with the reviewing official on an informal basis. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to the Superintendent. If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the students of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the levels shown above. In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired 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.

Flour Bluff I.S.D.

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School Food Authority

Contracting Entity (CE)

ID ESC



Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Flour Bluff I.S.D. offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast PK-6 free, 7-12 \$1.25; Lunch: ECC \$1.55, Grades 1-4 \$1.80, Grades 5-12 \$2.05. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals. Reduced price is \$0.30 for breakfast and \$0.40 for lunch. School meals may be pre-paid online (www.mynutrikids.com), at each school cafeteria, and/or at the Central Kitchen.

1. Do I need to fill out an application for each child? No. Complete one 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: Flour Bluff ISD, Child Nutrition Department, 2505 Waldron Road, Corpus Christi, Texas 78418, (361)694-9034.

2. Who can get free meals? Children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits (formerly the Food Stamp Program) or TANF can get free meals regardless of your income. Your benefit letter from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) is your documentation for free meals. If you have not already received a letter from your school stating that your household is eligible for free meals, you may take your HHSC benefit letter to your child nutrition office to be certified for free meals. If a member of your household is directly certified due to receiving SNAP or TANF benefits, all members of your household are eligible for free meals. If a child in your household is not included on the Letter of Direct Certification, sent to you by the SFA, or if you have questions, call the school at (361)694-9034.

3. Should I fill out an application if I got a letter this school year saying my children are approved for free or reduced-price meals? In most cases no, however read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school at (361)694-9034 if you have questions or a member of your household is not listed on the letter. If your household does not receive SNAP or TANF, your children may still be eligible to receive free meals if your household income is less than the amounts listed on the federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Please complete the application and submit it to your child nutrition office. Head Start students and Even Start children and foster children also qualify for free meals.

4. Can homeless, runaway, foster and migrant children get free meals? Yes. If you have not been notified of free status under these categories, please call Director of Special Programs, (361)694-9230 to see if your child(ren) qualify.

5. Who can get reduced-price meals? Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced-price limits on the Federal Income Chart.

6. 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.

7. Will the information I give be checked? Yes, we may ask you to send written proof.

8. 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 getting SNAP, TANF, or other benefits (such as unemployment benefits).

9. 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. Julie Carbajal, Superintendent, Flour Bluff ISD, 2505 Waldron Road, Corpus Christi, TX 78418.

10. 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 a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

11. Who should I include as members of my household? You must include yourself and all people living in your household, related or not (such as children, grandparents, other relatives or friends).

12. What if my income is not always the same? List the amount that you normally receive. 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 pay, include that amount as income. If you do not normally get overtime pay, do not include it as income.

13. We are in the military; do we include our housing allowance as income? If your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Init., do not include your housing allowance as income. All other allowances must be included in your gross income.

If you have other questions or need help, call (361)694-9034. Si necesita ayuda, por favor llame al teléfono: (361)694-9034.

Sincerely,

Yvette Jacinto, MS, Child Nutrition Director

FEDERAL INCOME CHART For School Year 2011-12			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$20,147	\$1,679	\$388
2	\$27,214	\$2,268	\$524
3	\$34,281	\$2,857	\$660
4	\$41,348	\$3,446	\$796
5	\$48,415	\$4,035	\$932
6	\$55,482	\$4,624	\$1,067
7	\$62,549	\$5,213	\$1,203
8	\$69,616	\$5,802	\$1,339
Each additional person:	\$7,067	\$589	\$136

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING FREE & REDUCED PRICE BENEFITS JULY 1, 2011- JUNE 30, 2012

FAMILY SIZE	ANNUALLY		MONTHLY		TWICE PER MONTH		EVERY TWO WEEKS		WEEKLY	
	FREE	REDUCED	FREE	REDUCED	FREE	REDUCED	FREE	REDUCED	FREE	REDUCED
1	\$14,157	\$20,147	\$1,180	\$1,679	\$590	\$840	\$545	\$775	\$273	\$388
2	\$19,123	\$27,214	\$1,594	\$2,268	\$797	\$1,134	\$736	\$1,047	\$368	\$524
3	\$24,089	\$34,281	\$2,008	\$2,857	\$1,004	\$1,429	\$927	\$1,319	\$464	\$660
4	\$29,055	\$41,348	\$2,422	\$3,446	\$1,211	\$1,723	\$1,118	\$1,591	\$559	\$796
5	\$34,021	\$48,415	\$2,836	\$4,035	\$1,418	\$2,018	\$1,309	\$1,863	\$655	\$932
6	\$38,987	\$55,482	\$3,249	\$4,624	\$1,625	\$2,312	\$1,500	\$2,134	\$750	\$1,067
7	\$43,953	\$62,549	\$3,663	\$5,213	\$1,832	\$2,607	\$1,691	\$2,406	\$846	\$1,203
8	\$48,919	\$69,616	\$4,077	\$5,802	\$2,039	\$2,901	\$1,882	\$2,678	\$941	\$1,339
9	\$53,885	\$76,683	\$4,491	\$6,391	\$2,246	\$3,196	\$2,073	\$2,950	\$1,037	\$1,475
10	\$58,851	\$83,750	\$4,905	\$6,980	\$2,453	\$3,491	\$2,264	\$3,222	\$1,133	\$1,611
11	\$63,817	\$90,817	\$5,319	\$7,569	\$2,660	\$3,786	\$2,455	\$3,494	\$1,229	\$1,747
12	\$68,783	\$97,884	\$5,733	\$8,158	\$2,867	\$4,081	\$2,646	\$3,766	\$1,325	\$1,883
For each additional family member add:			\$414	\$589	\$207	\$295	\$191	\$272	\$96	\$136
			\$4,966	\$7,067						