

SAVANNAH-CHATHAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM

SCHOOL YEAR 2019-2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

CHILDREN NEED HEALTHY MEALS TO LEARN. Savannah-Chatham County School District offers healthy meals every school day. **Breakfast for all students is FREE, served at no charge. Lunch costs \$3.00 for ALL GRADES. Your children may qualify for free lunch or for reduced price lunch. Reduced price lunch for all grades is \$0.40.** Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCE PRICE MEALS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from **SNAP** 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.

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART					
For School Year 2019-2020					
Household Size	Weekly	Every Two Weeks	Twice Per Month	Monthly	Yearly
1	445	889	963	1,926	23,107
2	602	1,204	1,304	2,607	31,284
3	759	1,518	1,645	3,289	39,461
4	917	1,833	1,985	3,970	47,638
5	1,074	2,147	2,326	4,652	55,815
6	1,231	2,462	2,667	5,333	63,992
7	1,388	2,776	3,008	6,015	72,169
8	1,546	3,091	3,348	6,696	80,346
Each additional person:	+158	+315	+341	+682	+8,177

2. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY? Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail Sharon Hill, Homeless Coordinator, 912-395-1092, email sharon.hill@sccpss.com.

3. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. Use **one meal 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: School Nutrition Program, 208 Bull Street, Room 308, Savannah, GA 31401.**

4. SHOULD I FILL OUT 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 received carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact the School Nutrition Office, 912 395-1066 or 912 395-1185, maria.fields@sccpss.com or eva.wright@sccpss.com immediately.

- 5. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? Yes!** You are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application if you are able. The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit www.myschoolapps.com to begin or to learn more about the online application process. Contact Maria Fields at 912-395-1066; maria.fields@sccpss.com; or Eva Wright at 912-395-1185; eva.wright@sccpss.com if you have any questions about the online application.
- 6. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT ANOTHER ONE?** Yes. Your child's application was only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year, through September 16, 2019. You must send in a new application unless the School Nutrition Office told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not send in a new application that is approved by the School Nutrition Program or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free lunch, your child will be charged the full price for lunch.
- 7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price lunch. Please fill out an application.
- 8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?** Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
- 9. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER?** Yes, you may apply at anytime during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free or reduced price lunch if the household income drops below the income limit.
- 10. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION?** You should talk to the School Nutrition Officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Arnold Jackson, Executive Director Of Operations, 2219 Gamble Road, Savannah, GA 31405; phone 912-395-5563; email arnold.jackson@sccpss.com.
- 11. 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.
- 12. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME?** List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1,000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1,000 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.
- 13. WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT?** Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application, or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.
- 14. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY?** Your base pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, it must also be included as income. However, if your 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 also excluded from income.
- 15. WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY?** List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper, and attach it to your application. Contact the School Nutrition Office at 912-395-5548 to receive a second application.
- 16. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR?** To find out how to apply for SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-877-423-4746.

If you have other questions or need help, call 912- 395-5548.

Sincerely,

Onetha, Bonaparte
Director, School Nutrition Program