

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our school provides healthy meals each day. Breakfast costs \$2.00 Elementary, \$2.10 Secondary; lunch costs \$2.90 Elementary, \$3.10 Secondary. Kindergarten students are eligible for one free breakfast daily.

Your children may qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. To apply, complete the enclosed Application for Educational Benefits following the instructions. **A new application must be submitted each year. At public schools, your application also helps the school qualify for education funds and discounts.**

State funds help to pay for reduced-price school meals, so all students who are approved for either free or reduced-price school meals will receive school meals at no charge. State funds also help to pay for breakfasts for kindergarten students, so all participating kindergarten students receive breakfasts at no charge.

To apply for free school meals, please complete the Application for Educational Benefits form or you may apply online at Campus Parent.

Return your completed Application for Educational Benefits to: BHM Schools Nutrition Services District Office, 214 1st Ave NE, Buffalo, MN 55313

Who can get free school meals? Children in households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), and foster, homeless, migrant and runaway children can get free school meals without reporting household income. Alternatively, children can get free school meals if their household income is within the maximum income shown for their household size on the instructions.

COMMON QUESTIONS:

I get WIC or Medical Assistance. Can my children get free school meals? Children in households participating in WIC or Medical Assistance do not automatically qualify for free meals. Children may be eligible for free or reduced-price school meals depending on other household financial information. Please fill out an application.

Who should I include as household members? Include yourself and all other people living in the household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends).

May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen? Yes. You or your children do not have to be U.S. citizens for your children to qualify for free or reduced-price school meals.

What if my income is not always the same? List the amount that you normally get. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get overtime only sometimes. For seasonal work, write in the total annual income.

Will the income information or case number I give be checked? It may be. We may also ask you to send written proof.

How will the information be kept? Information you provide on the form, and your child's approval for meal benefits, will be protected as private data. For more information see the back page of the Application for Educational Benefits.

If I don't qualify now, may I apply later? Yes. Please complete an application at any time if your income goes down, your household size goes up, or you start getting SNAP, MFIP or FDPIR benefits.

Please provide the information requested about children's racial identity and ethnicity, which helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. This information is not required for approval of school meal benefits.

Our goal is to provide well balanced, nutritious meals and a pleasant atmosphere for students in the school cafeteria. We offer meals that meet all of the USDA requirements. We welcome your questions, comments and concerns throughout the school year.

Sincerely,

Kim Hinrichs, Nutrition Services Director
Office: 763-682-8772 Main Line 763-682-8477
khinrich@bhmschools.org