

### Media Release for Free and Reduced-Price Meals Sample

Texhoma ISD announced its policy today for providing free and reduced-price meals for children served under the attached current income eligibility guidelines. Each school/site or the central office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by anyone on request.

Starting on Friday, August 7, 2020, Texhoma Elementary will begin distributing letters to the households of the children in the district about eligibility benefits and any actions households need to take to apply for these benefits. Applications also are available at Texhoma Elementary, 402 W. Denver Street, Texhoma, TX, Candice Tate 806-827-7400 or candice.tate@texhomaisd.net.

### Criteria for Free and Reduced-Price Meal Benefits

The following criteria will be used to determine a child's eligibility for free or reduced-price meal benefits:

### Income

1. Household income that is at or below the income eligibility levels

### Categorical or Automatic Eligibility

2. Household receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

### Program Participant

- 3. Child's status as a foster child, homeless, runaway, migrant, or displaced by a declared disaster
- 4. Child's enrollment in Head Start or Even Start

### Income Eligibility

For those households that qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on income, an adult in the household must fill out a free and reduced-price meal application either online at <a href="www.EZMealApp.com">www.EZMealApp.com</a> or paper applications are available at Texhoma Elementary. Completed paper applications may be returned to Candice Tate, Child Nutrition Cashier/Reviewing Official at 806-827-7657 fax or <a href="candice.tate@texhomaisd.net">candice.tate@texhomaisd.net</a>. Those individuals filling out the application will need to provide the following information:

- 1. Names of all household members
- 2. Amount, frequency, and source of current income for each household member
- 3. Last 4 digits of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application or, if the adult does not have a social security number, check the box for "No Social Security number"
- 4. Signature of an adult household member attesting that the information provided is correct

### Categorical or Program Eligibility

Texhoma ISD is working with local agencies to identify all children who are categorically and program eligible. Texhoma ISD will notify the households of these children that they do not need to complete an application. Any household that does not receive a letter and feels it should have should contact Candice Tate, Child Nutrition Cashier/Reviewing Official, 806-827-7400 or candice\_tate@texhomaisd.net.

Any household that wishes to decline benefits should contact Candice Tate, Child Nutrition Cashier/Reviewing Official, 806-827-7400 or candice.tate@texhomaisd.net.

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

Texhoma ISD \* PO Box 10080 \* Texhoma, TX 73960 \* (806) 827-7400 \* Fax (806) 827-7657

Kayla Yates, Superintendent

Missy Cartwright, Curriculum Director



# Texhoma ISD

## A Success for All School

### **Determining Eligibility**

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, Candice Tate, Child Nutrition Cashier/Reviewing Official, 806-827-7400 or candice.tate@texhomaisd.net will review applications and determine eligibility. Households or guardians dissatisfied with the Reviewing Official's eligibility determination may wish to discuss the decision with the Reviewing Official on an informal basis. Households wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to Kayla Yates, Superintendent, 806-827-3605 or <a href="kayla.yates@texhomaisd.net">kayla.yates@texhomaisd.net</a>, PO Box 10080, Texhoma, TX 73960.

### **Unexpected Circumstances**

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the attached current income eligibility guidelines.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the <u>USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form</u>, (AD-3027) found online at: <a href="http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\_filing\_cust.html">http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\_filing\_cust.html</a>, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: <a href="mailto:program.intake@usda.gov">program.intake@usda.gov</a>.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Texhoma ISD offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs\$1.45; lunch costs\$1.85. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals. Reduced-price is .30¢ for breakfast and .40¢ for lunch. If you received a notification letter that a child is directly certified for free or reduced-price meals, do not complete an application. Let the hool know if any children in the household attending school are not listed in the letter.

The questions and answers that followand attached directions provide additional information on how to complete the application. Complete only one application for all the students in the household and return the completed application to Candice Tate, PO Box 10080, Texhoma, TX 73960, <a href="mailto:candice.tate@texhomaisd.net">candice.tate@texhomaisd.net</a>, or fax 806-827-7657. If you have questions about applying for free or reduced-price meals, contact Candice Tate 806-827-7400 or candace.tate@texhomaisd.net.

### 1. Who Can Get Free Meals?

- *Income*—Children can get free or reduced-price meals if a household's gross income is within the limits described in the *Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines*.
- Special Assistance Program Participants—Children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Food Distribution Program for Households on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), are eligible for free meals.
- Foster—Foster children who are under the legal
   responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- Head Start or Early Head Start—Children participating in these programs are eligible for free meals.
- Homeless, Runaway, and Migrant—Children who meet the
  definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant qualify for free
  meals. If you haven't been told about a child's status as
  homeless, runaway, or migrant or you feel a child may
  qualify for one of these programs, please call or email
  Missy Cartwright 806-827-7400,
  missy.cartwright@texhomaisd.net.
- WIC Recipient—Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals.
- 2. What If I Disagree with the School's Decision About My Application? Talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to Kayla Yates, Superintendent, 806-827-7405, PO Box 10080, Texhoma, TX 73960, fax 806-827-7657, kayla.yates@texhomaisd.net.
- 3. My Child's Application Was Approved Last Year. Do I Need to Fill Out A New One? Yes. An application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. Send in a new application unless the school has told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.

- 4. If I Don't Qualify Now, May I Apply Later? Yes. Apply at any time during the school year. A child with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced-price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
- What If My Income Is Not Always the Same? List the amount <u>normally</u> received. If ahousehold member lost a job or had hours/wages reduced, use current income.
- 6. We Are in The Military. Do We Report Our Income Differently? Basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. Any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, or Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance paymentscount as income. If housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include the housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is excluded from income.
- 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.
- Will Application Information Be Checked? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the reported household income.
- My Family Needs More Help. Are There Other Programs
  We Might Apply For? To find out how to apply for other
  assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or 21-1.
- 10. Can I Apply Online? Yes! The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit <a href="https://secure.ezmealapp.com/ApplicationScreen.aspx">https://secure.ezmealapp.com/ApplicationScreen.aspx</a> to begin or to learn more about the online application process. Contact Candice Tate, <a href="mailto:candice.tate@texhomaisd.net">candice.tate@texhomaisd.net</a>, 806-827-7400 if you have questions about the online application.

If you have other questions or need help, call Candice Tate, <u>candice.tate@texhomaisd.net</u>, 806-827-7400.si necesita ayuda, por favor llame al teléfono: Candice Tate, <u>candice.tate@texhomaisd.net</u>, 806-827-7400. Sincerely,

Candice Tate,

Child Nutrition

### Directions for Applyingfor Free and Reduced-Price School Meals 2020-2021

Please use these instructions to complete the free or reduced-price school meals application. Submit one application per household, even if the children in the household attend more than one school in Texhoma ISD. Please use a **pen** (not a pencil) when completing the application. The application must be filled out completely in order for the school to make a determination if the children in your household qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. **An incomplete application cannot be approved**. Please contact Candice Tate, 806-827-7400, *candice.tate@texhomaisd.net* with your questions.

### Step 1: List All Household Members Who Are Infants, Children, And Students Up to and Including Grade 12.

· List each child's name.

<u>Print</u> first name, middle initial, and last name for each child in the household in the spaces. If there are more children than lines, use the back of the application to record additional names.

<u>Include</u> all household members who are age 18 or under and are supported with the household's income including children who are not enrolled in the district. Children do NOT have to be related to anyone in the household to be a part of the household.

- Mark the box following the child's name to show if the child is a student in the Texhoma Elementary.
- Record the child's grade if the child is in school.
- <u>Check</u> the appropriate box if a child qualifies for free meals as participant in the fostercare system, Head Start
  (including Early Head Start) or if a child meets the criteria for homeless, migrant, or runaway.

Checking Foster indicates that a foster care agency or court has placed the child in your home. If the application is being submitted for foster children only, complete Step 1, skipStep 2, and complete Step 3.

### Participation in a Categorical Program

If allchildren in the household are participants in one of thefollowing programs—Foster, Head Start, Homeless, Migrant, or Runaway, skip Step 2 and complete Step 3.

SNAP, TANF, and FDPIR: Do any household members (including you) currently participate in one or more of the following assistance programs: SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR?

If a child or adult in the household participates in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program(SNAP) or Temporary Assistance to Needed Families (TANF), <u>record</u> the Eligibility Determination Group (EDG) number in the space.

If a child or adult in the household is a participant in Food Distribution Program for Households on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), check the box to indicate participation. The Principal will contact you to obtain documentation of FDPIR participation.

If the students in the household are eligible based on SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR, skip Step 2 and completeStep 3.

### Step 2: Report Income for All Household Members.

Part A. Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of an Adult Household Member

• <u>Provide</u> the last four digits of the Social Security number (SSN) of an adult in the household or check the box for no SSN.

A social security number is not required to apply for these programs.

# Part B. Income for All Adult Household Members (Including Yourself, But Not Children)

• Record the first and last name of each adult in the household in the space provided.

Iftherearemoreadults in the household than available spaces, use the back of the application. Children's income is reported in Part C. Include all adults living in the household that share income and expenses, even if the adult is not related to anyone in the household and does not receive any income. Do not include adults that are not supported by the household's income and do not contribute income to the household.

 <u>Record</u> the amount of income the adult receives under the type of income: Working Earnings; Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony; Pensions/Retirement/Social Security/Supplemental Security Income (SSI); and All Other.

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Reduced-Price Meal Income Eligibility Guidelines

Gross income is the total income received before taxes or deductions. Ensure that the income reported has not been reduced by the amounts deducted for taxes, insurance premiums, or any other purpose. The Adult Income Information Box provides additional information on the types of income that need to be reported. Foster children may be included as a member of the householdor may be included on a separate application.

Write a  $\underline{0}$  in any field where there is no income to report. If you write  $\underline{0}$  or leave any fields blank, you are certifying(promising)that there is no income to report. If local officials have known or available information that the household income was reported incorrectly, the application will be verified for cause.

- Circle how often each type of income is received (frequency).
  - W = Weekly
  - E = Every 2 Weeks
  - T = Twice per Month
  - M = Monthly
  - A = Annually

### Part C. Income for Children in the Household

 <u>Record</u> total incomefor each child in the household who receives regular incomeby how often income is received (frequency).

### Record adult income in Part B.

Record the income of each child who receives regular income under the frequency indicating how often the income is received.

The Child Income Information Box (on the right) provides additional information on the types of income that needs to be reported for children in the household.

### Part D. Total Household Members

• Record the total number of children and adults in the household in the appropriate box.

This number MUST be equal to the number of household members listed in Step 1 and Step 2. It is very important to list all household members as the size of the household determines the household eligibility.

### Step3: Provide Contact Information and Adult Signature.

- · Read the certification statement.
- Write your current address and contact information in the space provided. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.

If you have no permanent address, this does not make your children ineligible for free or reduced-price school meals.

• <u>Print</u> the name of the adult signing the form, <u>sign</u> the form, and record today's date in the appropriate spaces.

All applications must be signed by an adult household member. By signing the application, the household member is promising that all information has been truthfully and completely reported. Before completing this section, please read the privacy and civil rights statements on the back of the application.

### Step 4: Return the Application.

• Return the application to Candice Tate, Texhoma ISD PO Box 10080, Texhoma, TX 73960, Fax 806-827-7657, candice.tate@texhomaisd.net, or return in person to Texhoma Elementary.

### Adult Income Information Box

### Earnings from Work

General Types of Income

- · Salary, wages, cash bonuses
- Strike benefits

### U.S. Military

- Allowances for off-base housing, food, and clothing
- Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA, or privatized housing allowances)

### Self-Employed Worker

 Net income from self-employment (farm or business) calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of the business from its gross receipts or revenue.

### Public Assistance/ Child Support/Alimony

(Do not report the value of any cash value public assistance benefits NOT listed on the chart.)

- Alimony payments
- · Cash assistance from State or local government
- Child support payments from court-ordered child support or alimony decree should be reported here. Informal but regular payments should be reported as other income in the next part.
- · Unemployment benefits
- Worker's compensation

### Pensions/Retirement/ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

- Annuities
- Income from trusts or estates
- · Private Pensions or disability
- Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits)
- · Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veteran's benefits

### All Other Income

- · Earned interest
- Investment income
- Regular cash payments from outside household
- Rental income

### Child's Income Information

### Earnings from Work

For Example: A child has a job where she or he earns a salary or wages.

### Social Security, Disability Payments

For Example: A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits.

### Social Security, Survivor's Benefits

For Example: A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives social security benefits.

### Income from any other source

For Example: A child receives income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust

# rd (Multi-Child) Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals

This Box for School Use Only.

	Homeless, Migrant or Runaway of who participate in Head Start are eligible for free meals, rlease read the directions for more minor	Definition of Household Member: anyone who is living with you and states income and expenses, even their contents of the conte	own if not volated. Children in Poster care: ch	Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil).	Texhoma ISD, 2020-2021 Standard (Minn-Chin) Application for rice and reconcernitive Service Comments
and a section on the hack			ter care; children who meet the definition of		Date Withdrawn:

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List all Household Members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. For each Household Member listed, if they do not receive income from any source, write '0.' If you enter each source in whole dollars only. Indicate the frequency of income: W=Weekly, E=Every 2 Weeks, T=Twice per Month, M=Monthly, A=Annually. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0.' If you enter each source in whole dollars only. Indicate the frequency of income: W=Weekly, E=Every 2 Weeks, T=Twice per Month, M=Monthly, A=Annually. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0.' If you enter each source in whole dollars only. Indicate the frequency of income: W=Weekly, E=Every 2 Weeks, T=Twice per Month, M=Monthly, A=Annually. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0.' If you enter each source in whole dollars only. Indicate the frequency of income: W=Weekly, E=Every 2 Weeks, T=Twice per Month, M=Monthly, A=Annually. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0.' If you enter each source in whole dollars only. Indicate the frequency of income: W=Weekly, E=Every 2 Weeks, T=Twice per Month, M=Monthly, A=Annually. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0.' If you enter each source in whole dollars only. Indicate the frequency of income: W=Weekly, E=Every 2 Weeks, T=Twice per Monthly, A=Annually. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0.' If you enter each source in whole dollars only. Indicate the frequency of income in the work in the	A. Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of an Adult Household  Member:  Member:  A. Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of an Adult Household	an Adult Houselu SF Rog Not Childre	old XXX-XX	needed, use the Ad	□Check if no SSN ditional Names secti	SN ction on the back	f)		
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officials may verify (check) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws

I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal funds, and that school

Street Address/Apt #	City State Zip	Daytime Phone and Email (Optional)	
Printed Name of Adult Household Member Signing the Form	Signature of Adult Household Member Signing the Form	fember Signing the Form Today's Date	)ate
Step 1: Additional Names			
A. List ALL Household Members Who Are Infants, Children,	A. List ALL Household Members Who Are Infants, Children, and Students up to and Including Grade 12. If more spaces are	needed, use the Additional Household Member Sheet on the back	1 the back.
	Student Attends School in	Ontinet	

5. S First Name List each child's name. Ξ Last Name Ϋ́cs District? Z Grade Student ID Number Foster Head Start Check all that apply. Homeless Migrant 

Step 2: ò Œ Income for Adult Household Members (Include Yourself, But Not Children) **Additional Names** 

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 Runaway

7.

5 goes in 2D. (Do not include the income of children in this section. The income of children Adult's First/Last Name <del>60</del> ·A €0 Work Earnings (Enter Amount) W--E-T-M--A W-E-T-M-A W-E-T-M-A (Circle One) Frequency 9 4 <del>()</del> Public Assistance Child Support/ (Enter Amount) W-E-T-M-A W-E-T-M-A W-E-T-M-A (Circle One) Frequency <del>(\*)</del> 60 ↔ entalSecurity Income ocialSecurity/Supplem Pensions/Retirement/S W-E-T-M-A W...E...T-M-A W-E-T-M-A (Circle One) Frequency 6 €⁄9 **⇔** Enter Amount) All Other W-E-T-M-A W-E-T-M-A W-E-T-M-A (Circle One) Frequency

C. Income for Children in the Household (Do not include adult income. Do report any type of regular income for children in the

Record total income by frequency for each child who receives regular income listed in Step 1. Ç 2 69 69 Weekly <del>( )</del> Every 2 Weeks 9 Twice per Month 6 **€** 60 Monthly 69 Annually

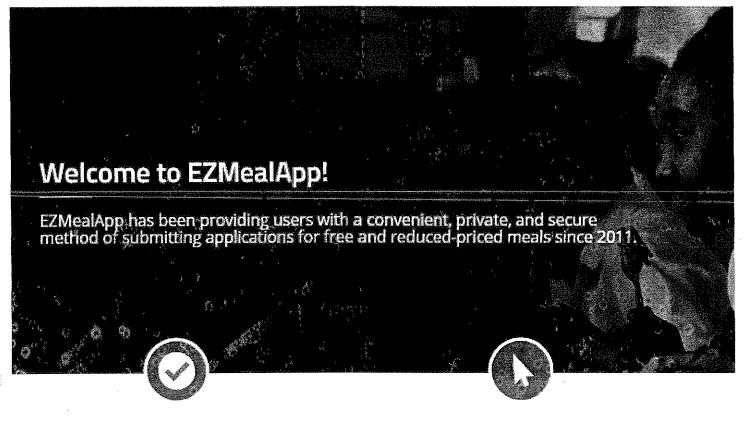
when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or 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 reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules. 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 programs 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

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than

Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\_filing\_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a

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