FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.40; lunch costs \$2.80. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price for breakfast is \$.30 and \$.40 for lunch. This packet includes an application for free or reduced price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from [State SNAP], [the Food Distribution Program
 on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)] or [State 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.
- 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 Robert V. Ross, Director of Administration, Robert_Ross@ewg.kl2.ri.us.
- 3. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. 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 the Senior High School.
- 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 got carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact the Senior High School immediately. Please send in a copy of the letter to the office.
- 5. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year, through September 15th. You must send in a new application unless the school 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 or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for meals.
- 6. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC <u>may</u> be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please send in an application.
- 7. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
- 8. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER? Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children 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.
- 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: Robert V. Ross, Director of

Administration, 940 Nooseneck Hill Road, West Greenwich, RI 02817 (401)397-5125 or Robert_ross@ewg.k12.ri.us

- 10. 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.
- 11. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you <u>normally</u> receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 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.
- 12. 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.
- 13. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY? Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any 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.
- 14. 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.
- 15. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? Your family may be eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or other programs. To find out if you qualify or to learn more, contact the **URI SNAP Outreach Project at** 1-866-306-0270.

If you have other questions or need help, call (401) 397-6893 ex203.

Sincerely,

Susan J. Chandler,

Principal

"I certify (promise) that all information on this anningtion is true and that all increases The "Sources of Income for Adults" chart will help you with the All Adult Household Members leet Address (if available) The "Sources of Income for Children" chart will STEP 4 help you with the Child of Income" for more Flip the page and review the charts titled "Sources Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil). income to include here? Are you unsure what SEES STEP 2 Meals for more information. How to Apply for Free and eligible for free meals. Reac Migrant or Runaway are children who meet the Children in Foster care and income and expenses, even living with you and shares Reduced Price School definition of Homeless if not related." Member: "Anyone who is Definition of Household STEP 1 List ALL Household Members who are infants, children, and students up to and including grade 12 (if more spaces are required for additional names, attach another sheet of paper) Contact information and adult signature. Do any Household Members (including you) currently participate in one or more of the following assistance programs: SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR? Report Income for ALL Household Members (Skip this step if you answered 'Yes' to STEP 2) Total Household Members (Children and Adults) Name of Adult Household Members (First and Last) for each source in whole dollars (no cents) only. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0'. If you enter '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report 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 receive income, report total gross income (before taxes) B. All Adult Household Members (including yourself) If NO Household Members listed in STEP 1 here Sometimes children in the household earn or receive income. Please include the TOTAL income received by all A. Child Income Child's First Name Go to STEP 3. Apt # Mail Completed Form To: Lineham School 859 Nooseneck Hill Rd , West Greenwich, Rl 02817 If YES > Primary Wage Earner or Other Adult Household Member Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of ↔ \$ 6 Earnings from Work City ₹ Write a case number here then go to STEP 4 (Do not complete STEP 3) Child's Last Name Bi-Weekly 2x Month | Monthly How often? State Child Support/Alimony Public Assistance/ × School Zip × × × arror dract scrittool officials may verify (check) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give Weekly × 6 Child income Bi-Weekly How often? Daytime Phone and Email (optional) Case Number: 2x Month Monthly Weekly Check if no SSN Bi-Weekly 2x Month 4 49 4 How often? All Other Income Pensions/Retirement/ Grade Monthly Write only one case number in this space Yes Student? Weekly No Bi-Weekly 2x Month: Monthly Check all that apply How often? Foster Migrant Homeless

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(202) 690-7442; or program.intake@usda.gov	fax: (202) email: progra	griculture Secretary for Civil Rights		ns, auditors for ogram rules.	rmine benefits for their progran them look into violations of pro	nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.	70 7
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Earned interestRental incomeRegular cash paymentsfrom outside household	-Earr -Rent -Regu	- Strike benefits	FSSA or privatized housing allowances) - Allowances for off-base housing, food and dothing	a	 A child receives regular income from private pension fund, annuity, or trust 	-Income from any other source	(and the second
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Pensions / Retirement / All Other Income		Public Assistance / Alimony / Child Support	Earnings from Work	Il or north time ich	Example(s)	Sources of Child Income	
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