

Depew Union Free School District
Food Service Department
1780 Como Park Boulevard
Depew NY 14043
716-686-5009 or 686-5010
www.depewschools.org

September 2018-2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome Back. We look forward to another great school year. Children need healthy meals to learn. The **Depew Union Free School District** offers healthy meals every school day.

Meal Prices are set so that it is not only nutritionally sound but also economically, the best buy in town! Our 2018-2019 breakfast and lunch full meal (includes milk) prices:

Breakfast: \$1.25
Lunch: \$2.10 (Cayuga Heights)
\$2.35 (Middle & High)
Milk, if purchased separately: \$.50

** Reduced Breakfast (Full Meal): \$.25

** Reduced Lunch (Full Meal): \$.25

**Children from households that meet Federal income guidelines (see included guidelines in this packet) may be eligible for free or reduced meals. Each school year a new meal application is required to be filled out. If you think, you may qualify for the Free or Reduced Meal Program is very important that you fill out the enclosed meal application and send it back as soon as possible. In the following pages, you will find questions, answers and a fact sheet to guide you in filling out the free and reduced meal application. If you need help with filling out the enclosed application, please call Barbara Albi at 686-5009 or 686-5010.

If you are looking for a secure way to deposit money onto your child's meal account please refer to the My School Bucks letter enclosed. This letter will guide you through creating an account. It is a safe and convenient way for you to pay for your child's meals and review your child's meal history. You do not have to put Money onto the account to use the history feature of my school bucks. Please read the letter and sign up today.

A monthly menu will be sent home with the students. The menu will also be posted on the Depew web site www.depewschools.org and Depew app.

Sincerely,
Barbara Albi
Food Service Manager

1. **WHO CAN GET FREE MEALS?** All children in households receiving benefits from SNAP (food stamps), the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations or TANF, can get free meals regardless of your income. In addition, your children can get free meals if your household's gross income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.
2. **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 Eligibility Income Chart, shown on this application.
3. **DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD?** No. Complete the 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. **Please return the completed application as soon as possible. Enclosed is the 2017-2018 Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals/Milk. Qualifying households need to complete this form and mail to: THE DEPEW UFSD FOOD SERVICE OFFICE at CAYUGA HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY, 1780 COMO PARK BLVD. DEPEW NY 14043 or Return the completed application to school with your child the first week of school.**
4. **CAN FOSTER CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?** Yes, foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are eligible for free meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for free meals regardless of income.
5. **CAN HOMELESS, RUNAWAY, AND MIGRANT CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?** Yes, children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant qualify for free meals. If you have not been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail **Joseph D'Amato – 686-5125 – jdamoto@depewschools.org** to see if they qualify.
6. **SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS?** Please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call the food Service office at 686-5009 or 686-5010 if you have questions.
7. **MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT ANOTHER ONE?** Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first 30 operating days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless you were notified by the Food Service office that your child has been Directly Certified to receive free meals for the new school year.
8. **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 a FREE/REDUCED PRICE MEAL application.
9. **WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?** Yes it can be and we may also ask you to send written proof.
10. **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.
11. **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. Jeffrey Rabey, Superintendent of Depew Schools, 686-5104.**
12. **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 U.S. citizens to qualify for free or reduced price meals.
13. **WHO SHOULD I INCLUDE AS MEMBERS OF MY HOUSEHOLD?** You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends) who share income and expenses. You must include yourself and all children living with you. If you live with other people who are economically independent (for example, people who you do not support, who do not share income with you or your children, and who pay a pro-rated share of expenses), do not include them.
14. **WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME?** List the amount that you normally 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
15. **WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE INCLUDE OUR HOUSING ALLOWANCE AS INCOME?** If you get an off-base housing allowance, it must be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income.
16. **MY SPOUSE IS DEPLOYED TO A COMBAT ZONE. IS HER COMBAT PAY COUNTED AS INCOME?** No, if the combat pay is received in addition to her basic pay because of her deployment and it was not received before she was deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.
17. **MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR?** To find out how to apply for **SNAP (food stamps)** or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call **1-800-342-3009**.