

# **RE-1 VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Logan County, Colorado

Administration Center • 301 Hagen Street • Sterling 80751

Phone (970) 522-0792 • Fax (970) 522-0525

District Web Site: www.re1valleyschools.org

Dear Parent/Guardian:

# **Information about Applying for Free or Reduced-Price School Meals**

Children need healthy meals to learn. **RE-1 Valley School** offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.25 and lunch costs \$2.10 for elementary and \$2.50 for secondary. Your children may qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. Students in all grades that qualify for free or reduced-price meals will receive breakfast and lunch at no charge.

This packet includes an application for free or reduced-price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. You can also find applications at all district schools or on the website www.re1valleyschools.org.

Below are common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

- 1. WHO CAN RECEIVE FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS?
  - a. All children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF/Colorado Works Basic Cash Assistance or State Diversion), are eligible for free meals.
  - b. Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals. Foster children may be added as a household member of the foster family if the foster family chooses to apply. Including foster children as household members may help other children qualify for benefits. If the foster family is not eligible, it does not prevent a foster child from receiving benefits.
  - c. Children who qualify for their districts Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
  - d. Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
  - e. 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 2020 – 2021						
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly			
1	\$23,606	\$1,968	\$454			
2	\$31,894	\$2,658	\$614			
3	\$40,182	\$3,349	\$773			
4	\$48,470	\$4,040	\$933			
5	\$56,758	\$4,730	\$1,092			
6	\$65,046	\$5,421	\$1,251			
7	\$73,334	\$6,112	\$1,411			
8	\$81,622	\$6,802	\$1,570			
Each additional person:	\$8,288	\$691	\$160			

- 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 have not already been notified that your children will receive free meals, please call RE-1 Valley School, Homeless Liaison or Migrant Coordinator.
- 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 your students school or Joleen Locke, 301 Hagen St., Sterling, CO 80751.
- 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 are missing from your eligibility notification, contact Joleen Locke, 301 Hagen St., Sterling, CO 80751. Phone 970-522-0792 ext. 1254 or email at: <a href="lockei@re1valleyschools.org">lockei@re1valleyschools.org</a> immediately.
- 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 valid for that school year and for the first 30 days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless the school notified you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
- 6. I RECEIVE WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN RECEIVE FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC <u>may</u> be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please send in a completed free and reduced-price school meal application.

- 7. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? You may be selected to provide written proof of the household income you report on the application.
- 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: Superintendent of Schools, 301 Hagen St., Sterling, CO 80751. 970-522-0792.
- 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. Immigration, migrant, citizenship or refugee status is not required to be provided during the application process, and families should continue to apply for free or reduced-price school meals. The application does require the last four numbers of a Social Security number or an indication that there is no Social Security number. Social Security number information is not reported to any organization outside of **RE-1 Valley School.**
- 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. The last four digits of the Social Security Number of an adult household member (or an indication of "none") is required to process a complete income application.
- 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. The last four digits of the Social Security Number of an adult household member (or an indication of "none") is required to process a complete income application.
- 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, or receive Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance payments, 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. Second applications are available at all of the district schools.
- 15. 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. Colorado PEAK is an online service to screen and apply for medical, food and cash assistance programs. It can be accessed at <a href="http://coloradopeak.force.com/">http://coloradopeak.force.com/</a>.

If you have other questions or need help, contact Joleen Locke, 301 Hagen St., Sterling, CO 80751. 970-522-0792 ext. 1254 or email at lockej@re1valleyschools.org.

Sincerely,

#### Joleen Locke Director of Food Services

### Non-discrimination Statement:

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: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\_filing\_cust.html, 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: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Studies show.....

"Children in the School Breakfast program were shown to have significantly higher standardized achievement test scores than eligible non-participants."

-- Tufts University School of Nutrition Science and Policy, 199

Dear Parents,

The School Breakfast Program is **available to all students** every weekday morning. No advanced registration is necessary; your child can attend every day or only occasionally. These supervised meals provide your child with ¼ of their nutritional needs each day. School breakfast is tasty and nutritious.

School Breakfast is an ideal solution on mornings when kids are running late or parents have early commitments. Whatever the reason, if breakfast at home is not convenient, please take advantage of breakfast at your school.

Thank you for helping us to make sure that all our students start the school day alert, well fed and ready to learn.

# SCHOOL BREAKFAST INFORMATION

**Price\*: 1.25** 

Reduced Price: no charge for reduced price breakfast

**Serving Time: Every day** 

Please call your child's school office for serving time.

\* Price is determined by your confidential Application for Free and Reduced Price Meals. If you need an application, please call (970) 522-0792 Ext. 1254

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

File: EF-E-1

# **School Meal Payments**

The district is committed to ensuring that all students receive the nutrition they need to engage in active learning during the school day. In accordance with applicable federal guidance from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), this policy is intended to serve the purposes of meeting student needs, minimizing the identification of students with insufficient funds to pay for school meals and maintaining the fiscal integrity of the district's school food service account.

# Student meal accounts and meal charges

Student meal accounts shall be established by the district.

Parents will be encouraged to pre-pay for students paying full or reduced price for meals. The district shall ensure that parents have access to at least one no-cost method of paying for meal services, such as the ability to pay in person.

Students will be permitted to pay for meals and/or add funds to student accounts on the day of service.

If a student has money to purchase a full or reduced price meal at the time of the meal service, the student must be provided a meal. The student's money may not be used to repay previously unpaid charges if the student intended to use the money to purchase that day's meal.

Students may charge up to \$10.00 before the student will no longer be permitted to charge meals. Students at the meal charge maximum will be provided a complimentary replacement meal.

# Notification of low or negative balances

Notification of a low balance on a student account will be provided privately by automated phone calls each week to families whose account balance is less than \$2.00.

When notified of a low balance on a student account, parents will be reminded of this policy and the process for submitting applications for free or reduced price meal benefits. Parents will also be notified that any school meal debt accrued prior to the district's determination that the student is eligible for free or reduced lunch remains the parent's responsibility.

Notification of a negative balance on a student account will be provided by automated phone calls each week, followed by a personal call or letter from the Food Service Director after five days.

# Collection of meal charge debt

In collecting debt, the district shall ensure that collection efforts do not have a negative impact on the students involved and instead focus on the adult(s) in the household responsible for providing funds for student meal purchases. The district

will work with parents to establish repayment plans with payment levels and due dates appropriate to the household's particular circumstances.

For students with delinquent meal charges, the following process will be used to collect debt. The Food Service Director will contact the parent/guardian by phone and letter. The food service department reserves the right to refer a debt to a collection agency if the debt is not paid within one calendar year, or if the student leaves the district.

The district shall notify students and their parents about this policy at the beginning of each school year. Notification shall also be provided to those students who transfer into the district during the school year. Information about this policy may also be included in student handbooks, student enrollment or registration packets and/or back-to-school packets and posted on district and school websites.

This policy will also be communicated to school and district-level staff responsible for this policy's enforcement, such as school food service staff responsible for collecting payment for meals at the point of service, staff involved in notifying families of low or negative balances, and staff involved in enforcing any other aspects of this policy.

LEGAL REF.: USDA Guidance SP 46-2016 (requires written policy regarding unpaid meal charges)

Adopted: June 19, 2017

# Free and Reduced Price School Meal Application Instructions

If you, or someone in your household receives SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, TANF/CO Works (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; State Diversion or Basic Cash Assistance) or FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations), follow the instructions listed below:

STEP 1: List all students first and last names. Optional: Provide date of birth and grade.

STEP 2: List a case number if you or someone in your household participates in SNAP, TANF or FDPIR

STEP 4: Sign the application. Optional: Provide contact information for purposes of receiving eligibility notification.

STEP 5: If you do not want your information shared with Medicaid/SCHIP and/or school/district programs, you must complete this step.

**Optional:** Complete the Children's Racial and Ethnic Survey on the back of the application.

If you are applying for a Foster Child, a student that qualifies for your districts Head Start program or is a Runaway, Homeless or Migrant student, follow the instructions listed below:

STEP 1: List all students first and last names. Optional: Provide date of birth and grade.

Check the appropriate box if the student is a Foster Child, Head Start, Runaway, Homeless or Migrant.

STEP 2: Skip.

STEP 3: Skip.

STEP 4: Sign the application. Optional: Provide contact information for purposes of receiving eligibility notification.

STEP 5: If you do not want your information shared with Medicaid/SCHIP and/or school/district programs, you must complete this step.

Optional: Complete the Children's Racial and Ethnic Survey on the back of the application.

If you are applying based on income eligibility or you are applying based on income and other source categorical eligibility (i.e. Foster Child, Head Start, Runaway, Homeless or Migrant), follow the instructions listed below:

STEP 1: List all students first and last names. Optional: Provide date of birth and grade. Check the appropriate box if the student is a Foster Child, Head Start, Runaway, Homeless or Migrant.

**STEP 2:** Skip this part.

#### STEP 3:

- A. Student Income: Report the combined gross income (before taxes and other deductions) for ALL students' listed in Step 1 in your household in the box marked "Student Income." Only count foster children's income if you are applying for them together with the rest of your household. It is optional for the household to list foster children living with them as part of the household. Refer to "Sources of Income for Students at the bottom of this page.
- All Other Household Members (including yourself): Print the name of each household member in the boxes marked "Names of Other Household Members." Do not include people who live with you but are not supported by your household's income and do not contribute income to your household. Do not list any household members you listed in STEP 1. If a student listed in STEP 1 has income, follow the instructions in STEP 3, part A.

#### Report Gross Income (total income before taxes and deductions) for each Household Member:

- Earnings from work: example: See "Earnings from Work" below. If you are paid \$500.00 bi-weekly, please record \$500.00 in the income blank and mark the bi-weekly check box. If you do not normally receive over-time pay, do not include in your reported income.
- Income from Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony: See "Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony" below. List the total amount each person received from any public assistance programs (do not include income from SNAP, TANF or FDPIR), child support or alimony. For example: If you receive \$500.00 monthly for child support, please record \$500.00 in the income blank and mark the monthly check box.
- Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income: See "Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income" below. Report net income for self-owned business, farm, or rental income. Report gross income for pension or retirement income. Next to the amount, check how often the person receives it. If you are in the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include this housing allowance.

Report total household members. The total must equal all names listed within the student and household members' fields. Provide the last four of the Social Security Number (SSN), or "Check if no SSN". This information is not reported to anyone.

STEP 4: Sign the application. Optional: Provide contact information for purposes of receiving eligibility notification.

STEP 5: If you do not want your information shared with Medicaid/SCHIP and/or school/district programs, you must complete this step.

Optional: Complete the Children's Racial and Ethnic Survey on the back of the application.

#### **Sources of Income to Report:**

#### **Sources of Income for Students:**

Earnings from work Social Security - Disability or Survivor's payments Any other type of regularly received

**Public Assistance/Child** 

#### Support/Alimony:

income

Public assistance payments Welfare payments Alimony payments Child support payments Social Security Benefits

#### **Earnings from Work:**

Wages/salaries/tips Strike benefits **Unemployment Compensation** Worker's Compensation Net income from self-owned business or farm

#### Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income:

Supplemental Security Income

Retirement income

Veteran's benefits

Social Security

Disability benefits

Cash regularly withdrawn from savings

Interest/Dividends

Income from Estates/Trusts/Investments

Regular contributions from people not living in the household

Net royalties/annuities/rental income

Any other regularly received income, whether federally

recognized or not must be reported

# RE-1 Valley Schools 2020-2021 Household Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals Complete one application per household. Please use a black or blue pen (not a pencil).

STEP 1 List ALL Students' attendin	g RE-1Valley Schools	(if more spaces are requir	ed for additional names, att	ach another sheet of paper)	
Student's First Name	MI	Student's Last Name	Birth Date M M D D	2.2	
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF/Colorado Works – Basic Cash Assistance or State Diversion), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). Provide case number and skip to Step 4.  SNAP Case Number TANF Case Number FDPIR Case Number					
STEP 3 Report income for ALL house	sehold members (skip	this step if you provided a c	case number in STEP 2)		
	ling yourself) embers not listed in Step 1 KES AND OTHER DED is no income to report.  Earnings from Work  Weekly  \$  \$  \$  \$  \$  \$  \$  \$  \$  \$  \$  \$  \$	(including yourself) even if the UCTIONS) for each source in w  How Often?    Bi-Weekly   2x Month   Monthly   Annually   Chi   \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	hole dollars only. If they do not  How Ofte	h household member listed, if they do receive income, report receive income from any source, write '0'. If you enter '0' or leave  n?  Pensions/Retirement/ All Other Income  Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Month Monthly Annually  \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	
Total Household Members (Students' and Adults from Steps 1 and 3)  Last four digits of Social Security Number (SSN) or mark "no SSN" of adult signing this form only if Step 3B has been completed.  Check box if no SSN					
		<u> </u>	•	ol, 301 Hagen St., Sterling, CO 80751	
"I certify (promise) that all information on this application i. if I purposely give false information, my children may lose m				deral funds, and that school officials may verify (check) the information. I am aware that	
			СО		
Mailing Address or PO Box Apt. #	or Lot #	City	State Zip Code	Email Address	
Home or Cell Phone Number	SIGNATURE of Adult Househ	old Member (Required)	Printed First a	and Last Name of Signer Today's Date	
STEP 5 Release of Information					

The information provided on this application will be used in conjunction with state educational programs and may be shared with Medicaid or State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) offices to seek enrollment of children into the above programs. Also, if your students are eligible to receive free or reduced price meals this information may be shared with the school/district for the purpose of waiving certain school/district program fees that your child(ren) might otherwise be required to pay. The school/district is not permitted to share your information with anyone else. You are not required to consent to the release of your information; this will not affect your student(s)' eligibility for school meals.

Do **NOT** share my information with any programs

#### optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals. Ethnicity (check one): Hispanic or Latino Not Hispanic or Latino Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Race (check one or more): American Indian or Alaskan Native Asian Black or African American White You may also qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program! See more information below. Colorado PEAK is an online service for Coloradans to **NEED HELP BUYING GROCERIES?** screen and apply for medical, food and cash assistance programs. Receive one-on-one assistance with applying for food stamps Referrals to food pantries and free meals Visit coloradopeak.force.com to learn more. Get information on child and senior nutrition programs Food Resource Hotline STATEWIDE, 855-855-4626 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 submit METRO 7 2 0 - 3 8 2 - 2 9 2 0 all needed information, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the ¿NO LE ALCANZA EL DINERO PARA COMPRAR COMIDA? primary wage earner or other adult household member who signs the application. The social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster Reciba ayuda personalizada para solicitar las estampillas de comida child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Derivaciones a bancos de comida y comidas gratis Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Obtenga información sobre programas de nutrición Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child para niños y ancianos or 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 Línea Directa de Recursos de Comidas LÍNEA 855-855-4626 your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We may share your eligibility METRO 7 2 0 - 3 8 2 - 2 9 2 0 information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and HungerFreeColorado.org law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules. DISTRICT USE ONLY. DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52; Bi-Weekly x 26; 2 Times per Month x 24; Monthly x 12 Application Type: Application Status: □ Total Household Income: \$ Household Size: Approved - □Free □ Reduced Household Income Frequency - □ Weekly □ Bi-Weekly □ 2x/Month □ Monthly □ Annually Denied - □Over Income Guidelines □Incomplete/Missing: □Categorical Eligibility - □SNAP □FDPIR □TANF □Foster □Homeless/Migrant/Runaway/Head Start Notes: **Determining Official Signature:** Approval/Denial Date: **Notification Sent:**

We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is

**OPTIONAL** Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities