

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs **\$1.75**; lunch costs **\$3.05**. **Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals.** Reduced price is **\$0.30** for breakfast and **\$0.40** 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 **SNAP, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)** or **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 on this chart.

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For <b>School Year 2020-2021</b>			
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 haven’t been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail Michelle Duplantier, [michelle.duplantier@discoveryhsf.org](mailto:michelle.duplantier@discoveryhsf.org), 504-233.4720.
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 child’s school office, or complete an online application using MyMealtime.com.
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 Tiffany Chatelain at 504-233-4720 immediately.

5. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? Yes! You are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application if you are able. The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit [www.MyMealtime.com](http://www.MyMealtime.com) to begin or to learn more about the online application process. Contact Tiffany Chatelain at 504-233-4720 if you have any questions about the online application.
6. 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 30 operating days of this school year. 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.
7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please send in an application.
8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
9. 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.
10. 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: NICK WALKER, 504-233-4720, [NICK.WALKER@DISCOVERYHSF.ORG](mailto:NICK.WALKER@DISCOVERYHSF.ORG).
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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. Contact the front office of your child's campus to receive a second application.

16. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for **SNAP** or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services: **1-888-524-3578**.

If you have other questions or need help, call 504-233-4720.

Sincerely,

## **Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy**

### **Non Discrimination Statement**

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, and reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, and American Sign Language) should contact the responsible State or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at **(202) 720-2600** (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at **(800) 877-8339**.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online, at <https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-3027>, from any USDA office, by calling **(866) 632-9992**, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

**mail:**

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue,  
SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

**fax:**

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442;

**email:**

[program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING YOUR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE LUNCH APPLICATION ONLINE**

**Step 1:** Go to: [www.mymealtime.com](http://www.mymealtime.com)

**Step 2:** Create a MealTime Online profile by clicking on the "Create new profile" link and entering a Username and Password that you will use to login to MealTime Online.

**Step 3:** Log in to your MealTime Online account (using the Username and Password that you created in Step 1).

**Step 4:** Click the button that looks like this:  
and follow the instructions to complete your application. You will need your student's first name and student PSID number. **Your student's PSID number is on the address line of this mailing.**

Is it time to apply for free or reduced school meals for your student? Start your form online and submit it today!

[Click Here](#)



For questions, please reach out to your school's Office Manager or Business Operations Manager. Looking forward to starting the new school year together!



**OPTIONAL**

**Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities**

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 and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.

**Ethnicity (check one):**

- Hispanic or Latino
- Not Hispanic or Latino

**Race (check one or more):**

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White

**No-Cost Health Insurance from Louisiana Children's Health Insurance Program (LaCHIP):** Most children getting free OR reduced price meals who do not have health insurance can get free health coverage from LaCHIP. The school system is allowed to share information from this application with LaCHIP. If you do not want to share information from your free and reduced-price meals application with LaCHIP, you need to check the box and sign below. Your decision will not affect your child's eligibility for free and reduced-price meals.

I do **NOT** want school officials to share information from my free and reduced-price meals application with LaCHIP. Please sign here:

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian Date

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 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 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 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 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 program reviews, and law enforcement officials help them look into violations of program rules.

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**INSTRUCTIONS**

**Sources of Income**

SOURCES OF INCOME FOR CHILDREN		SOURCES OF INCOME FOR ADULTS		
Sources of Child Income	Examples(s)	Earnings from Work	Public Assistance/ Alimony/ Child Support	Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income
Earnings from work	A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages	Salary, wages, cash bonuses	Unemployment benefits	Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits)
Social Security - Disability Payments - Survivors Benefits	A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits  A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits	Net income from self-employment (farm or business)  <b>If you are in the U.S. Military</b> Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances)	Worker's Compensation  Supplemental Security Income (SSI)  Cash assistance from state or local government	Private pensions or disability benefits  Regular income from trusts or estates  Annuities
Income from person outside the household	A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money	Allowances for off-base housing, food and clothing	Alimony payments	Investment Income  Earned Interest
Income from any other source	A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity or trust		Child Support Payments  Veteran's Benefits  Strike Benefits	Rental Income  Regular cash payments from outside household

**DO NOT FILL OUT**

For School Use Only

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52; Every 2 Weeks x 26; Twice a Month x 24; Monthly x 12

Total Income	How Often?					Household Size	Eligibility			OR	Categorically Eligible? <input type="checkbox"/>
	Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2 x Month	Monthly	Annually		Free	Reduced	Denied		

Determining Official's Signature	Date	Confirming Official's Signature	Date	Verifying Official's Signature	Date

Rellene una solicitud por vivienda. Utilice un bolígrafo (no un lápiz).

**PASO 1** Enumerar a **TODOS** los miembros de la vivienda que sean bebés, niños y estudiantes hasta el 12.º grado inclusive (si se requieren más espacios para nombres adicionales, adjunte otra hoja de papel)

Definición de miembro de la vivienda: "Cualquier persona que viva con usted y comparta ingresos y gastos, aunque no estén emparentados".  
Los niños en régimen de acogida y los que encajan en la definición de personas sin hogar, migrantes o fugados tienen derecho a recibir comidas gratis. Lea **Cómo solicitar comidas escolares gratis o a precio reducido** para obtener más información.

Nombre del niño	Inicial del segundo nombre	Apellido del niño	Grado	¿Estudiante? Sí No	Niño en régimen de acogida	Si m ft
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Marque todo lo que corresponda

**PASO 2** ¿Algún miembro de su vivienda (incluido usted) participa actualmente en uno o más de los siguientes programas de ayuda: ¿SNAP, TANF o FDPIR?

En caso **NEGATIVO** > Vaya al PASO 3. En caso **AFIRMATIVO** > Escriba aquí un número de expediente y vaya al PASO 4 (No rellene el PASO 3)

Número de expediente:

Escriba solo un número de expediente en este esp

**PASO 3** Declarar los ingresos de **TODOS** miembros de la vivienda (Omita este paso si su respuesta es "Sí" en el PASO 2)

¿No está seguro de qué ingresos incluir aquí?  
Dele la vuelta a la página y consulte las listas tituladas "Fuentes de ingresos" para obtener más información.  
La lista "Fuentes de ingresos de niños" le ayudará en la sección Ingresos del niño.  
La lista "Fuentes de ingresos de adultos" le ayudará en la sección Todos los miembros adultos de la vivienda.

**A. Ingresos del niño**  
A veces, los niños de la vivienda tienen ingresos. Incluya los ingresos **TOTALES** obtenidos por todos los miembros de la vivienda enumerados en el PASO 1 aquí.

Ingresos del niño \$   
 ¿Con qué frecuencia?  Semanales  Quincenales  Bimensuales  Mensuales

**B. Todos los adultos miembros de la vivienda (incluido usted)**  
Enumere a todos los miembros de la vivienda que no aparezcan en el PASO 1 (incluido usted), aunque no reciban ingresos. Por cada miembro de la vivienda enumerado, si reciben ingresos, declare el ingreso total (antes de impuestos) por cada fuente en dólares en números enteros (sin centavos) solamente. Si no reciben ingresos de ninguna fuente, escriba '0'. Si escribe '0' o deja algún campo en blanco, está certificando (prometiéndolo) que no hay ingresos que declarar.

Nombres de los miembros adultos de la vivienda (nombre y apellido)	Ingresos profesionales	¿Con qué frecuencia?				Ayuda pública/ manutención infantil / pensión alimenticia	¿Con qué frecuencia?				Pensión/jubilación/ otros	¿Con qué frecuencia?			
		Semanales	Quincenales	Bimensuales	Mensuales		Semanales	Quincenales	Bimensuales	Mensuales		Semanales	Quincenales	Bimensuales	Mensuales
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Total de miembros de la vivienda (Niños y adultos)

Últimos cuatro dígitos del número de la Seguridad Social (SSN - Social Security Number) del sustentador principal u otro miembro adulto de la vivienda

Marque si no tiene SSN

**PASO 4** Información de contacto y firma de un adulto

"Certifico (prometo) que toda la información de esta solicitud es veraz y que he declarado todos los ingresos. Entiendo que esta información se da en relación con la recepción de fondos federales, y que las autoridades escolares pueden verificar (comprobar) la información. Soy consciente que si he dado información falsa con conocimiento de causa, mis niños pueden perder la prestación de alimentación y se me podría procesar con arreglo a las leyes federales y estatales pertinentes".

Dirección (si está disponible)  Apartamento n.º  Ciudad  Estado  Código postal  Teléfono durante el día y correo electrónico (opcional)

Nombre del adulto que firma el formulario  Firma del adulto  Fecha de hoy



Fuente de ingresos de niños	
Fuentes de ingreso del niño	Ejemplo(s)
- Ingresos profesionales	- Un niño tiene un trabajo fijo a tiempo completo o parcial en el que gana un sueldo o salario
- Seguridad Social - Pagos por discapacidad - Beneficios al supérstite	- Un niño es ciego o discapacitado y recibe prestaciones de la Seguridad Social - Uno de los padres es discapacitado, está jubilado o ha fallecido, y su niño recibe prestaciones de la Seguridad Social
- Ingresos de una persona ajena a la vivienda	- Un amigo u otro familiar da regularmente dinero al niño
- Ingresos de cualquier otra fuente	- Un niño recibe ingresos regulares de un fondo de pensiones privado, anualidad o fi

Fuente de ingresos de adultos		
Ingresos profesionales	Ayuda pública / pensión alimenticia / manutención infantil	Pensión / jubilación / otros
- Sueldo, salario, bonos en efectivo - Ingresos netos como autónomo (granja o negocio)  Si está en el Ejército de Estados Unidos:  - Sueldo básico y bonos en efectivo (NO incluya el pago de combate, FSSA o subsidios de vivienda privatizados) - Subsidios por vivienda fuera de la base, alimentación y ropa	- Prestación por desempleo - Indemnización laboral - Ingresos de seguridad suplementarios (SSI - Supplemental Security Income) - Ayuda económica del estado o gobierno local - Pagos de pensión alimenticia - Pagos de manutención infantil - Prestaciones para los veteranos - Prestación por huelga	- Seguridad Social (incluidas las prestaciones de jubilación de empleados ferroviarios y por neumoconiosis) - Pensiones privadas o prestación por discapacidad - Ingresos regulares de fideicomisos o bienes inmuebles - Anualidades - Ingresos de inversión - Intereses ganados - Ingresos de alquiler - Pagos regulares en efectivo ajenos a la vivienda

**OPCIONAL**

**Identidad étnica y racial de los niños**

Estamos obligados a solicitar información sobre la raza de sus niños y su origen étnico. Esta información es importante y ayuda a garantizar que servimos completamente a nuestra comunidad. Responder a esta sección es opcional y sus niños seguirán teniendo derecho a solicitar comidas escolares gratis o a precio reducido.

**Grupo étnico (marque uno):**  Hispano o latino  No hispano o latino  
**Raza (marque una o más):**  Indio americano o nativo de Alaska  Asiático  Negro o afroamericano  Nativo de Hawái u otra isla del Pacífico  Blanco

La ley nacional de comidas escolares Richard B. Russell requiere esta información en esta solicitud. No está obligado a dar esta información, pero si no lo hace, no podemos autorizar que sus niños reciban comidas gratis o a precio reducido. Debe incluir los últimos cuatro dígitos del número de la Seguridad Social del miembro adulto de la vivienda que fi a la solicitud. No son obligatorios los últimos cuatro dígitos del número de la Seguridad Social cuando realiza la solicitud en nombre de un niño en régimen de acogida o si proporciona un número de expediente de Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP - Programa de asistencia de nutrición complementaria), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF - Asistencia temporal para familias necesitadas) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR - Programa de distribución de alimentos en reservas indias) u otro identificador FDPIR de su niño, o cuando indica que el miembro adulto de la vivienda que fi a la solicitud no tiene un número de la Seguridad Social. Usaremos su información para determinar si su niño tiene derecho a recibir comidas gratis o a precio reducido, y la administración y ejecución de los programas de comida y desayuno. PODEMOS compartir esta información con los programas de educación, salud y nutrición para ayudarlos a evaluar, fi o determinar las prestaciones de sus programas, auditores para revisar los programas, y agentes del orden público para ayudarlos a investigar violaciones de las normas del programa.

De acuerdo con la ley federal de derechos civiles y los reglamentos y políticas de derechos civiles del Departamento de Agricultura de EE. UU. (USDA - U.S. Department of Agriculture), el USDA, sus organismos, ofi y empleados, y las instituciones que participan o administran los programas del USDA tienen prohibido discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen étnico, sexo, discapacidad, edad o tomar represalias o venganza por actividades anteriores a los derechos civiles en cualquier programa o actividad llevada a cabo o financiado por el USDA.

Las personas con discapacidad que requieran medios alternativos de comunicación para informarse del programa (por ejemplo, braille, letra grande, cinta de audio, lengua americana de signos, etc.) deben ponerse en contacto con el organismo (estatal o local) donde solicitaron sus prestaciones. Las personas sordas o con problemas de audición o deficiencias en el habla pueden ponerse en contacto con el USDA a través del Federal Relay Service (servicio federal de transmisiones) en el (800) 877-8339. Además, puede encontrar información del programa en otros idiomas además del inglés.

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correo: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
 Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
 1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
 Washington, D.C. 20250-9410  
 fax: (202) 690-7442; o  
 correo electrónico: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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**Para uso exclusivo del colegio**

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 Weeks x 26, Twice a Month x 24 Monthly x 12

Total Income	How often? Weekly <input type="radio"/> Bi-Weekly <input type="radio"/> 2x Month <input type="radio"/> Monthly <input type="radio"/>	Household size	Eligibility: <input type="checkbox"/> Free <input type="radio"/> Reduced <input type="radio"/> Denied <input type="radio"/>	Categorical Eligibility <input type="checkbox"/>	Date <input type="text"/>
Determining Official's Signature	Date	Confirming Official's Signature	Verifying Official's Signature	Date	Date <input type="text"/>