FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Stuttgart Junior High and Stuttgart High School of the Stuttgart School District offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.75; lunch costs \$3.00. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is \$.30 for breakfast 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 **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** (SNAP), 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	School Year 2022-2023		
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly	
1	25,142	2,096	484	
2	33,874	2,823	652	
3	42,606	3,551	820	
4	51,338	4,279	988	
5	60,070	5,006	1,156	
6	68,802	5,734	1,324	
7	77,534	6,462	1,492	
8	86,266	7,189	1,659	
Each additional person:	8,732	728	168	

- 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 Mrs. Nikki Hawkins at 870-673-8701 or nhawkins@stuttgartschools.org.
- 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: Jessica Millerd, 2501 S. Main St., Stuttgart, AR 72160, 870-673-8701.
- 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 Arkansas County Department of Human Services, 870-673-3597 immediately.
- 5. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? No. Stuttgart School District currently does not have an online claim form.

- 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 few days of this school year, through **September 26, 2022**. 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: **JEFF MCKINNEY**, 2501 S. MAIN ST. STUTTGART, AR 72160 JMCKINNEY@STUTTGARTSCHOOLS.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 Jessica Millerd at 2501 S. Main St., Stuttgart, AR 72160, 870-673-8701 or email jmillerd@stuttgartschools.org 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 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), contact your local assistance office or call 501-682-8276.

If you have other questions or need help, call 870-673-8701. Sincerely,

Jessica Millerd Child Nutrition Director Stuttgart School District

HOW TO APPLY FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Please use these instructions to help you fill out the application for free or reduced price school meals. You only need to submit one application per household, even if your children attend more than one school in the Stuttgart School District. The application must be filled out completely to certify your children for free or reduced price school meals. Please follow these instructions in order! Each step of the instructions is the same as the steps on your application. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please contact Stuttgart School District Jessica Millerd 870-673-8701 or jmillerd@stuttgartschools.org (preferred).

PLEASE USE A PEN (NOT A PENCIL) WHEN FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION AND DO YOUR BEST TO PRINT CLEARLY.

STEP 1: LIST ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS WHO ARE INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND STUDENTS UP TO AND INCLUDING GRADE 12

Tell us how many infants, children, and school students live in your household. They do NOT have to be related to you to be a part of your household.

Who should I list here? When filling out this section, please include ALL members in your household who are:

- Children age 18 or under AND are supported with the household's income;
- In your care under a foster arrangement, or qualify as homeless, migrant, or runaway youth;
- Students attending Stuttgart School District, regardless of age.

A) List each child's name. Print each child's name. Use one line of the application for each child. When printing names, write one letter in each box. Stop if you run out of space. If there are more children present than lines on the application, attach a second piece of paper with all required information for the additional children.

B) Is the child a student at Stuttgart School District? Mark 'Yes' or 'No' under the column titled "Student" to tell us which children attend Stuttgart School District. If you marked 'Yes,' write the grade level of the student in the 'Grade' column to the right.

C) Do you have any foster children? If any children listed are foster children, mark the "Foster Child" box next to the child's name. If you are ONLY applying for foster children, after finishing **STEP 1**, go to **STEP 4**.

Foster children who live with you may count as members of your household and should be listed on your application. If you are applying for both foster and non-foster children, go to step 3.

D) Are any children homeless, migrant, or runaway? If you believe any child listed in this section meets this description, mark the "Homeless, Migrant, Runaway" box next to the child's name and complete all steps of the application.

STEP 2: DO ANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)?

If anyone in your household (including you) currently participates in one or more of the assistance programs listed below, your children are eligible for free school meals:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- A) If no one in your household participates SNAP:
- Leave STEP 2 blank and go to STEP 3.

B) If anyone in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:

- Write a case number or identified for SNAP. You only need to provide one case number. If you participate
 in SNAP and do not know your case number or identified, contact: Arkansas Department of Human
 Services at 870-673-3597.
- Go to STEP 4.

STEP 3: REPORT INCOME FOR ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

How do I report my income?

- Use the charts titled "Sources of Income for Adults" and "Sources of Income for Children," printed on the back side of the application form to determine if your household has income to report.
- Report all amounts in GROSS INCOME ONLY. Report all income in whole dollars. Do not include cents.
 - Gross income is the total income received before taxes.
 - Many people think of income as the amount they "take home" and not the total, "gross" amount. Make sure that the income you report on this application has NOT been reduced to pay for taxes, insurance premiums, or any other amounts taken from your pay.

- Write a "0" in any fields where there is no income to report. Any income fields left empty or blank will also be counted as a zero. If you write '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. If local officials suspect that your household income was reported incorrectly, your application will be investigated.
- Mark how often each type of income is received using the check boxes to the right of each field.

3.A. REPORT INCOME EARNED BY CHILDREN

A) Report all income earned or received by children. Report the combined gross income for ALL children listed in STEP 1 in your household in the box marked "Child Income." Only count foster children's income if you are applying for them together with the rest of your household.

What is Child Income? Child income is money received from outside your household that is paid DIRECTLY to your children. Many households do not have any child income.

3.B REPORT INCOME EARNED BY ADULTS

Who should I list here?

- When filling out this section, please include ALL adult members in your household who are living with you and share income and expenses, even if they are not related and even if they do not receive income of their own.
- Do NOT include:

E) Report income from

- o People who live with you but are not supported by your household's income AND do not contribute income to your household.
- o Infants, Children and students already listed in STEP 1.
- B) List adult household members' names. Print the name of each household member in the boxes marked "Names of Adult Household Members (First and Last)." Do not list any household members you listed in STEP 1. If a child listed in STEP 1 has income, follow the instructions in STEP 3, part A.

pensions/retirement/all other income.

Report all income that applies in the

"Pensions/Retirement/ All Other

Income" field on the application.

- **C)** Report earnings from work. Report all income from work in the "Earnings from Work" field on the application. This is usually the money received from working at jobs. If you are a self-employed business or farm owner, you will report your net income.
- **What if I am self-employed?** Report income from that work as a net amount. This is calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of your business from its gross receipts or revenue.
- F) Report total household size. Enter the total number of household members in the field "Total Household Members (Children and Adults)." This number MUST be equal to the number of household members listed in STEP 1 and STEP 3. If there are any members of your household that you have not listed on the application, go back and add them. It is very important to list all household members, as the size of your household affects your eligibility for free and reduced price meals.
- D) Report income from public assistance/child support/alimony. Report all income that applies in the "Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony" field on the application. Do not report the cash value of any public assistance benefits NOT listed on the chart. If income is received from child support or alimony, only report court-ordered payments. Informal but regular payments should be reported as "other" income in the next part.
- G) Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number. An adult household member must enter the last four digits of their Social Security Number in the space provided. You are eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social Security Number. If no adult household members have a Social Security Number, leave this space blank and mark the box to the right labeled "Check if no SSN."

STEP 4: CONTACT INFORMATION AND ADULT SIGNATURE

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

- A) Provide your contact information. Write your current address in the fields provided if this information is available. If you have no permanent address, this does not make your children ineligible for free or reduced price school meals. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.
- **B) Print and sign your name.** Print the name of the adult signing the application and that person signs in the box "Signature of adult."
- C) Write today's date.
 In the space provided,
 write today's date in
 the box.
- D) Share children's racial and ethnic identities (optional). On the back of the application, we ask you to share information about your children's race and ethnicity. This field is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price school meals.

PUBLIC RELEASE – SY 2022-2023 FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS

Stuttgart School District, today announces its policy for providing free and reduced price meals for children served under the National School Lunch Program, and School Breakfast Program. The Stuttgart Junior High, Stuttgart High School and Stuttgart Administration Office have a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party. The price charged for a paid student breakfast is \$1.75; the price charged for a paid student lunch is \$3.00.

HOUSEHOLD APPLICATIONS

The household size and income criteria identified below will be used to determine eligibility for free and reduced price benefits for school year 2022-2023. Children from households whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced price meals.

		FREE MEALS – 130%					REDUCED PRICE MEALS – 185%				
Household Size	Federal Poverty Guidelines	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	13,590	17,667	1,473	737	680	340	25,142	2,096	1,048	967	484
2	18,310	23,803	1,984	992	916	458	33,874	2,823	1,412	1,303	652
3	23,030	29,939	2,495	1,248	1,152	576	42,606	3,551	1,776	1,639	820
4	27,750	36,075	3,007	1,504	1,388	694	51,338	4,279	2,140	1,975	988
5	32,470	42,211	3,518	1,759	1,624	812	60,070	5,006	2,503	2,311	1,156
6	37,190	48,347	4,029	2,015	1,860	930	68,802	5,734	2,867	2,647	1,324
7	41,910	54,483	4,541	2,271	2,096	1,048	77,534	6,462	3,231	2,983	1,492
8	46,630	60,619	5,052	2,526	2,332	1,166	86,266	7,189	3,595	3,318	1,659
Each add'l person add	4,720	6,136	512	256	236	118	8,732	728	364	336	168

Household application forms are being distributed by the school with a letter informing households of the availability of free and reduced price meals for their children. **Only one application should be submitted for each household.** Applications are also available at the principal's office in each school. To apply for free or reduced price meals, households must complete the application and return it to the school. Applications will be considered incomplete if all information is not provided as described in the instructions provided with the application. Applications may be submitted at any time during the school year as circumstances change. The information households provide on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and verification of data.

Applications may be subject to verification at any time during the school year by school officials.

CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY

Children who are members of a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly food stamps, household are categorically eligible for free meals. School officials will determine eligibility for free meals based on documentation obtained directly from the SNAP office. School officials will notify households of their eligibility. Households who are notified of their eligibility but who do not want their children to receive free meals must contact the school. SNAP households should complete an application if they are not notified of their eligibility by September 26, 2022.

Households with children who are members of currently approved Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, formerly food stamps, may submit an application with abbreviated information as described in the application instructions.

Children who are enrolled in Head Start / Even Start programs are categorically eligible for free meals. Contact Tiara Ladd at 870-672-7161 with questions regarding Head Start / Even Start meal benefits.

Children certified as migrant, homeless or runaway by the district are categorically eligible for free meals. Contact Nikki Hawkins at 870-673-8701 or nhawkins@stuttgartschools.org with questions regarding migrant, homeless or runaway meal benefits.

Foster children who are the legal responsibility of a welfare agency or court are also eligible for benefits regardless of the income of the household with whom they reside. Eligibility for the foster child is based on the child being the legal responsibility of welfare agency or court. An application for a household that includes both foster children and non-foster must be completed for eligibility to be determined for the non-foster children. Contact Nikki Hawkins at 870-673-8701 or nhawkins@stuttgartschools.org with questions regarding foster children.

Children in households that receive WIC may be eligible for benefits. An application must be completed for determination of eligibility.

If a household member becomes unemployed during the school year, the household **may** be eligible for free or reduced price meals PROVIDED that the loss of income causes the household income to be within the eligibility criteria. An application should be completed for determination of eligibility benefits.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, the **Child Nutrition Director** will review applications and determine eligibility. **870-673-8701**.

Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the determining official may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either to: Jeff McKinney at 870-673-8701.

A household may SUBMIT an application ANYTIME DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.

Non-Discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. In accordance with federal civil rights 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 (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, 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.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf, 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:

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; or
email:
program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

2022-2023 Household Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil)

TEP 2 Do any Household Members (including you) currently participate in the following assistance program: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)? TO Go to STEP 3. If YES > Write a case number or identifier here, then go to STEP 4. (Do not complete STEP 3) Write only one case number or identifier: TEP 3 Report Income for ALL Household Members (Skip this step if you answered "Yes" to STEP 2) A. Child Income Sometimes different in the household Members (Skip this step if you answered "Yes" to STEP 2) A. Child Income Sometimes different in the household Members (Skip this step if you answered "Yes" to STEP 2) A. Child Income Sometimes different in the household Members (Skip this step if you answered "Yes" to STEP 2) A. Child Income Sometimes different in the household Members (Including yourself) List all lousehold Members in Step 1 (including yourself) List all lousehold Members in Step 1 (including yourself) were if they do not receive income. For each Household Members (including yourself) List all lousehold Members in Step 1 (including yourself) were if they do not receive income. For each Household Members (including yourself) List all lousehold Members in Step 1 (including yourself) were if they do not receive income. For each Household Members (including yourself) List all lousehold Members including yourself) were if they do not receive income. For each Household Members (including yourself) were if they do not receive income. For each Household Members (including yourself) were if they do not receive income. For each Household Members (including yourself) were if they do not receive income. For each Household Members (including yourself) were if they do not receive income. For each Household Members (including yourself) were if they do not receive income. For each Household Members (including yourself) were if they do not receive income. For each Household Members (including yourself) were if they do not receive income (including yourself) were if they do not receive income. For		Household Members who are infants, children, and Child's First Name	MI	Child's Last Name	Name	e of School		tudent? Foster	
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	Sources of Income for Children			Source of Income f	or Adults
Source of Child Income	Example (s)		Earnings from Work	Public Assistance/Alimony/	Pensions/Retirement/ All Other Income
Earnings from work	A child has a regular full or part-time job w salary or wages.	here they earn a regular	Salary, wages, cash bonuses Net income from self-	Unemployment benefits Worker's compensation	Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits)
Social Security Disability Payments Survivor's Benefits	y Payments A parent is disabled, retied, or deceased, and their child receives Social			• Supplemental Security Income (SSI) • Cash assistance from state	 Private pensions or disability benefits Regular income from trusts or estates Annuities
Income from person outside the household	A friend or extended family member regul money.	arly give a child spending	not include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances) •Allowances for off-base housing,	or local government • Alimony payments • Child support payments	Investment income Earned interest
Income from any other source	A child receives regular income form a privor trust.	rate pension fund, annuity,	food and clothing	Veteran's benefits Strike benefits	 Rental income Regular cash payments formoutside household
section is optional and does Ethnicity (check one): Race (check one or more): The Richard B. Russell National Schnformation, but if you do not submit you must include the last four digits member who signs the application. The rou list a Supplemental Nutrition Assert indicate that the adult household your information to determine if your	not affect your children's eligibility fo	or free or reduced price mention or Latino tive Asian Be application. You do not have to go ur child for free or reduced price in you apply on behalf of a foster or SNAP identifier for your child or a social security number. We were and for administration and enformation or social security number.	lack or African American ive the Program information may be alternative means of communication of the control	Native Hawaiian or Other made available in languages of unication to obtain program inform the responsible State or local Agroice and TTY) or contact USDA tion complaint, a Complainant shorm which can be obtained online	ther than English. Persons with disabilities who requiration (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American ency that administers the program or USDA's TARG through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 mould complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program
	d, or determine benefits for their programs, au		must contain the complainal discriminatory action in suffi	nt's name, address, telephone no cient detail to inform the Assistan	9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The umber, and a written description of the alleged nt Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature 127 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:
n accordance with federal civil rights his institution is prohibited from disci	explains what to do when you believe you hat law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USE iminating on the basis of race, color, national reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity to the contract of the contra	A) civil rights regulations and poliorigin, sex (including gender iden	icies, 1400 Independe	sistant Secretary for Civil Rights nce Avenue, SW	fax: (833)256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.
School use only	i ose omy			Annual Income Conversion	n: show calculations
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Reason for denial :			^	nnual X 1=	

_Determination Date:

2022-2023

Determining Official's Signature:_