

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Searcy Special School District** offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs **\$1.00 for all grades**. Lunch costs **\$1.75 for K-6 grades** and **\$2.00 for 7-12<sup>th</sup> grades**. **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 INCOME ELIGIBILITY CHART For School Year 2016-2017				
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly	
1	21,978	1,832	423	
2	29,637	2,470	570	
3	37,296	3,108	718	
4	44,955	3,747	865	
5	52,614	4,385	1,012	
6	60,273	5,023	1,160	
7	67,951	5,663	1,307	
8	75,647	6,304	1,455	
Each additional person:	7,696	642	148	

- 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 the office at your child's school and ask to speak to the Guidance Counselor.
- 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 office at your child's 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 **Charlotte Davis at (501) 268-3517 or [cdavis@searcyschools.org](mailto:cdavis@searcyschools.org)** immediately.

