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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Deer Valley Unified School District offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.50; lunch costs \$2.95 for elementary/middle and \$3.50 for high schools. Your children may qualify for free or for reduced-price meals. The reduced-price meals will also be free throughout this school year, as DVUSD has waived the reduced price meal co-pay for both breakfast and lunch.

Our schools often participate in programs that your child may benefit from if your child qualifies for free or reduced-price meals. Households must complete the att to be shared with these programs. The Consent for Sharing form should be returned to the school with the submission of the school meal application.

This packet includes a school meal application for free or reduced meal benefits, application directions, and Consent for Sharing form. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. **WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE MEALS?**
  - a. All children in households receiving benefits from **SNAP, FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations) or TANF** can get free meals regardless of your income.
  - b. Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
  - c. Childr
  - d. Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
  - e. Children can get free or reduced- 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.

20402 N. 15th Av

Federal Eligibility Income Chart for School Year 2024-2025			
Household Size	Yearly Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income
1	\$27,861	\$2,322	\$536
2	\$37,814	\$3,152	\$728
3	\$47,767	\$3,981	\$919
4	\$57,720	\$4,810	\$1,110
5	\$67,673	\$5,640	\$1,302
6	\$77,626	\$6,469	\$1,493
7	\$87,579	\$7,299	\$1,685
8	\$97,532	\$8,128	\$1,876
Each additional person:	+\$9,953	+\$830	+\$192

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 meals, please call the DVUSD Homeless, Migrant and Runaway Coordinator at 623-445-4924.
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: Food & Nutrition Department, 21421 N. 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85027.
4. **SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS?** No, but please read the letter you got carefully. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact 623-445-5166 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 [EZMealApp.com](http://EZMealApp.com) to fill out an online application. Contact 623-445-5166 if you have any questions.
6. **MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT ANOTHER ONE?** y good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year through September 12, 2024. 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 CHILD(REN) GET FREE MEALS?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please fill out 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: Joan Chiarello, Director, Food & Nutrition Department, 21421 N 21<sup>st</sup> Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85027.
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. Our organization does not release information for immigration-related purposes in the usual course of operating the School Nutrition Programs.
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. Call 623-445-5166, contact your school or come to Food & Nutrition Department, 21421 N. 21<sup>st</sup> Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85027 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 1-855-777-8590

If you have other questions or need help, call 623-445-5166.

Sincerely,  
Joan Chiarello, RD, SNS  
Director

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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, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.



Sources of Income for Adults		
Earnings from Work	Public Assistance/ Alimony/Child Support	Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income

Salary, wages, cash bonuses  
 Net income from self-employment  
 (farm or business)

**Fo13Military families:**

Basic pay and q101.3 611.02 155.3 1



<b>Sources of Income for Children</b>	
<b>Type of Income</b>	<b>Examples</b>
Earnings from work	A child has a job where they earn a salary or wages.



## **CONSENT FOR SHARING INFORMATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS**

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

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