

NEWS RELEASE

July 15, 2009

Free and Reduced Lunch Policy Announced

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Unified School District today announced its policy for providing free and reduced-price meals for children served under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. The Food Services central office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

The household size and income criteria identified below will be used to determine eligibility for free, reduced-price (currently there is no charge for reduced-price meals in San Diego Unified School District), or full-price meal benefits (meal prices are \$ 1.00 for breakfast, \$2.00 for elementary lunch, and \$2.50 for secondary lunch). Children from households whose gross income is at or below the levels shown here are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Children who receive Food Stamp (FS), California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payments (Kin-GAP), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) benefits are automatically eligible for free meals regardless of the income of the household in which they reside. Eligibility for a foster child is based on a separate application and solely on the amount of the child's "personal use" income.

Income Eligibility Guidelines July 1 2009 through June 30, 2010										
Household Size Δ	Free Eligibility Scale Lunch, Breakfast, Milk					Reduced-Price Eligibility Scale Lunch, Breakfast				
	Year	Month	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Week	Year	Month	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Week
1	\$14,079	\$ 1,174	\$ 587	\$ 542	\$ 271	\$20,036	\$ 1,670	\$ 835	\$ 771	\$ 386
2	18,941	1,579	790	729	365	26,955	2,247	1,124	1,037	519
3	23,803	1,984	992	916	458	33,874	2,823	1,412	1,303	652
4	28,665	2,389	1,195	1,103	552	40,793	3,400	1,700	1,569	785
5	33,527	2,794	1,397	1,290	645	47,712	3,976	1,988	1,836	918
6	38,389	3,200	1,600	1,477	739	54,631	4,553	2,277	2,102	1,051
7	43,251	3,605	1,803	1,664	832	61,550	5,130	2,565	2,368	1,184
8	48,113	4,010	2,005	1,851	926	68,469	5,706	2,853	2,634	1,317
<i>For each additional family member, add:</i>										
	\$ 4,862	\$ 406	\$ 203	\$ 187	\$ 94	\$ 6,919	\$ 577	\$ 289	\$ 267	\$ 134

Forms will be distributed to households with a letter informing them of the availability of free and reduced-price meals for enrolled children.

Applications are also available at the office in each school. To apply for free or reduced-price meal benefits, households must complete an application and return it to the school office or mail it to the central Food Services office for processing. Applications may be submitted at any time during the school year. The information households provide on the application will be used to determine meal eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school or program officials.

Requirements for school officials to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits are as follows: For households receiving Food

Stamp, CalWORKs, Kin-GAP, or FDPIR benefits – applications need only include the enrolled child(ren)'s name, Food Stamp, CalWORKs, Kin-GAP, or FDPIR case number, and the signature of an adult household member. For households who do not list a Food Stamp, CalWORKs, Kin-GAP, or FDPIR case number, the application must include the names of all household members, the gross amount and source of the income received by each household member, and the signature and corresponding Social Security number of an adult household member. If the household member who signs the application does not have a Social Security number, the household member must check the box indicating on the application that they do not have a Social Security number.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, the determining official(s), as designated by the San Diego Unified School District Food Services department, shall review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the eligibility ruling may discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. Parents may also make a formal request for an appeal hearing of the decision and may do so orally or in writing with the Food Services hearing official. Parents or guardians should contact Food Services for specific information regarding the name of the determining official and/or hearing official for San Diego Unified School District.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact Food Services. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the levels shown above.

Households that receive Food Stamp, CalWORKs, Kin-GAP, or FDPIR benefits may not have to complete an Application for Free or Reduced-Price Meals. Food Service officials will determine eligibility for free meals based on documentation obtained directly from the Food Stamp, CalWORKs, Kin-GAP, or FDPIR office that a child is a member of a household currently receiving Food Stamp or FDPIR benefits or an assistance unit receiving CalWORKs or Kin-GAP benefits. Food Service officials will notify households of their eligibility, but those who do not want their child(ren) to receive free meals must contact Food Services. Food Stamp, CalWORKs, Kin-GAP, and FDPIR households should complete an application if they are not notified of their eligibility by September 5, 2009.

To find out more about the free and reduced-price meal program, contact Food Services as (858) 627-7328 or on the web at www.sandi.net/food.

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, the San Diego Unified School District is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). The USDA is an equal opportunity provider.

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