

Public Release

The Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Nutrition, Health and Transportation Services, today announced its policy for free and reduced price meals for children unable to pay the full price of meals served under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program and the Afterschool Care Snack Program.

State and Local school officials have adopted the following family size and income criteria for determining eligibility:

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES Effective 7-1-2010

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Free Meals</u>					<u>Reduced Price Meals</u>				
	<u>Yearly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Twice a Month</u>	<u>Every two weeks</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Yearly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Twice a Month</u>	<u>Every two weeks</u>	<u>Weekly</u>
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
For each additional family member add:	4,862	406	203	187	94	6,919	577	289	267	134

Households may apply for free or reduced price meal benefits one of four ways as listed below.

- Households whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free meals or for reduced price meals. Households may complete one application listing all children and return it to your child's school.
- Food Assistance households and children receiving benefits under the Family Investment Program (FIP) are eligible for free meals. Most children from Food Assistance and FIP households will be qualified for free meals automatically. These households will receive a letter from their children's schools notifying them of their benefits. Households that receive a letter from the school need to do nothing more for their children to receive free meals.
- Some Food Assistance and FIP households will receive a letter from the Department of Human Services(DHS) which will qualify the children listed on the letter for free meals. Parents must take this letter to the child's school to receive free meals.
- Food Assistance or FIP households receiving benefits that do not receive a letter from DHS must complete an application for their children to receive free meals.

Only complete applications will be approved by the school. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year. If a family member becomes unemployed the family should contact the school to complete an application.

In certain cases, foster children are also eligible for these benefits. If a family has foster children living with them and wishes to apply for such meals for them, instructions for making application for such children are contained on the

application form. Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) participants may be eligible for free or reduced price meals based on a completed application.

Households with children who are enrolled in the Head Start/Even Start Program or the Migrant Education Program or who are considered homeless or runaway by the school district's homeless liaison should contact the school for assistance in receiving benefits. If households are dissatisfied with the ruling of the officials, they may make a formal appeal either orally or in writing to the school's designated hearing official. The policy statement on file at the school contains an outline of the hearing procedure. School officials may verify the information in the application, and that deliberate misrepresentation of information may subject the applicant to prosecution under applicable State and Federal criminal statutes. Households should contact their local school for additional information.

Non-discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to *USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410*, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.