FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. The Twinsburg City Schools offers healthy meals each school day. Breakfast costs \$1.75; lunch costs \$3.00 @ Wilcox and Bissell, \$3.25 @ Dodge, RBC, and THS. 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 receive free or reduced-price meals? All children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Ohio Works First (OWF); foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court; children participating in their school's Head Start program; and children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals. Also, your children may receive free or reduced-price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the federal income eligibility guidelines.

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2019-2020										
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly							
1	\$23,107	\$1,926	\$445							
2	31,284	2,607	602							
3	39,461	3,289	759							
4	47,638	3,970	917							
5	55,815	4,652	1,074							
6	63,992	5,333	1,231							
7	72,169	6,015	1,388							
8	80,346	6,696	1,546							
Each additional perso	n: 8,177	682	158							

- 2. How do I know if my children qualify as homeless, migrant or runaway? If members of your household lack a permanent address; are staying together in a shelter, hotel or other temporary housing arrangement; relocate on a seasonal basis or; children live with you who have chosen to leave their prior or family or household then the children may qualify as homeless, migrant or runaway. If you have not been told your children will receive free meals, please email Denise Traphagen at dtraphagen@twinsburgcsd.org to see if they qualify.
- 3. Do I need to fill out an application for each child? No. Use one free and reduced-price school meal application for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete. Please submit all required information. Return the completed application to Mark Bindus, RD,LD, 10084 Ravenna Road, Twinsburg, OH 44087
- 4. Should I complete an application if I received a letter this school year saying my children are approved already for free meals? No, but please read the letter carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from the eligibility notification, contact Mark Bindus, RD,LD, District Dietitian (mbindus@twinsburgcsd.org) immediately.
- 5. **My child's application was approved last year. Do I need to complete another application?** Yes. Your child's application is valid for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. You are required to submit a new application unless the school notified you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
- 6. I receive WIC benefits. Can my child(ren) get free meals? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please submit a completed application.
- 7. Will the information I give be checked? Yes, we may also ask you to send written proof.

- 8. **If I do not 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.
- 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 the following contact person: Chad Welker, cwelker@twinsburgcsd.org
- 10. **May I apply if someone else in my household is not a U.S. citizen?** Yes. You or your child(ren) members do not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced-price meals.
- 11. What if my income is not always the same? List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1,000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, submit the report with the routine amount of \$1,000 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.
- 12. What if some household members have no income to report? Household members may not receive some types of income that are asked for you to report on the application or may not receive income at all. When this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those also will be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank.
- 13. 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 also must 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.
- 14. What if there is not 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.
- 15. Why am I being asked to give my consent for an instructional fee waiver? Ohio public schools are required to waive the school instructional fees for children who quality for free meal benefits. School food service personnel must have parent consent to share the student meal application if your child(ren) quality for a fee waiver. If you agree to allow your child(ren)'s meal application to be shared with school officials to see if they qualify for a fee waiver then select **yes** in part 5. If you do not wish for that information to be shared, then select **no** in part 5. Answering no to this question will mean your child will not be considered for a fee waiver. Answering this question either way will not change your child(ren)'s free or reduced-price meal eligibility.
- 16. **My family needs more help. Are there other programs we might apply for?** To find out how to apply for Ohio SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 877-852-0010.

If you have other questions or need help, call Mark Bindus @ 330-486-2448.

Sincerely,

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING

A household member is any child or adult living with you.

IF YOUR HOUSEHOLD RECEIVES BENEFITS FROM THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) OR OHIO WORKS FIRST (OWF), FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

- Part 1: List all household members and the school name and grade level for each child.
- Part 2: List the 7 or 10-digit case number for any household member (including adults) receiving SNAP or OWF benefits.
- Part 3: Skip this part.
- Part 4: Skip this part.
- **Part 5:** Answer yes or no and sign your name if you would like the application to be checked by school officials to determine if the child(ren) qualifies for a school instructional fee waiver.
- Part 6: Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are not necessary.
- Part 7: We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.

IF NO ONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD RECEIVES SNAP OR OWF BENEFITS AND IF ANY CHILD IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS HOMELESS, MIGRANT OR RUNAWAY, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

- Part 1: List all household members and the school name and school grade level for each child.
- Part 2: Skip this part.
- Part 3: If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway, check the appropriate box and call Denise Traphagen at dtraphagen@twinsburgcsd.org. If not, skip this part.
- Part 4: Complete only if a child in your household isn't eligible under Part 3. See Instruction for all other households.
- **Part 5:** Answer yes or no and sign your name if you would like the application to be checked by school officials to determine if the child(ren) qualifies for a school instructional fee waiver.
- Part 6: Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are not necessary if you didn't need to complete in part 4.
- Part 7: We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.

IF YOU APPLY FOR A FOSTER CHILD, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

If all children in the household are foster children:

- Part 1: List all foster children and the school name and grade level for each child. Check the box that indicates the child is a foster child.
- Part 2: Skip this part.
- Part 3: Skip this part.
- Part 4: Skip this part.
- Part 5: Answer yes or no and sign your name if you would like the application to be checked by school officials to determine if the child(ren) qualifies for a school instructional fee waiver.
- Part 6: Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are not necessary.
- Part 7: We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.

If some of the children in the household are foster children:

- Part 1: List all household members and the school name and school grade level for each child. For any person, including children, with no income, you must check the "No Income" box. Check the box if the child is a foster child.
- Part 2: If the household does not have a 7 or 10-digit SNAP or OWF case number, skip this part.
- Part 3: If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call Denise Traphagen at dtraphagen@twinsburgcsd.org. If not, skip this part.
- Part 4: Follow these instructions to report total household income from this month or last month.
 - Box 1-Name: List all household members with income.
 - Box 2 –Gross Income and how often it was received: For each household member, list each type of income received for the month. Check the appropriate box to note how often the person receives the income weekly, every other week, twice a month, or monthly. For earnings, list the gross income not the take-home pay. Gross income is the amount earned *before* taxes and other deductions and can be found on pay stubs. For other income, list the amount and check the box to note how often each person received assistance from welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's benefits (VA benefits), and disability benefits. Under *All Other Income*, list Worker's Compensation, unemployment or strike benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, and any other income. Do not include income from SNAP, FDPIR, WIC, federal education benefits and foster payments received by the family from the placing agency. For ONLY the self-employed, report income after expenses under *Earnings from Work*. This is for your business, farm, or rental property. If you are in the Military Privatized Housing Initiative or receive combat pay, do not include these allowances as income.
- Part 5: Answer yes or no and sign your name if you would like the application to be checked by school officials to determine if the child(ren) qualifies for a school instructional fee waiver.
- Part 6: Adult household member must sign the form and list the last four digits of their Social Security Number (or mark the box if he or she doesn't have one).
- Part 7: We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.

ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS (INCLUDING WIC HOUSEHOLDS) FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

- Part 1: List all household members and the school name and grade level for each child. For any person, including children, with no income, you must check the "No Income Box."
- Part 2: If the household does not have a 7 or 10-digit SNAP or OWF case number, skip this part.
- Part 3: If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and Denise Traphagen at dtraphagen@twinsburgcsd.org. If not, skip this part.
- Part 4: Follow these instructions to report total household income from this month or last month.
 - Box 1 Name: List all household members with income.
 - Box 2 Gross Income and how often it was received: For each household member, list each type of income received for the month. Check the box to note how often the person receives the income weekly, every other week, twice a month, or monthly. For earnings, be sure to list the gross income not take-home pay. Gross income is the amount earned before taxes and other deductions and can be found on pay stubs. For other income, list the amount and check the box to note how often each person received assistance from welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's benefits (VA benefits), and disability benefits. Under All Other Income, list Worker's Compensation, unemployment or strike benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, and any other income. Do not include income from SNAP, FDPIR, WIC, federal education benefits and foster payments received by the family from the placing agency. For ONLY the self-employed, report income after expenses under Earnings from Work. This is for your business, farm, or rental property. If you are in the Military Privatized Housing Initiative or receive combat pay, do not include these allowances as income.
- **Part 5:** Answer yes or no and sign your name if you would like the application to be checked by school officials to determine if the child(ren) qualifies for a school instructional fee waiver.
- Part 6: An adult household member must sign the form and list the last four digits of their Social Security Number (or mark the box if he or she doesn't have one).
- Part 7: We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.

2019-2020 FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS APPLICATION

Part 1. ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS	L AND ILL		, (-	\IOL	. 00.	10	<u> </u>	_ !V!		CLO AI I LIV	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	ļ		
Names of <u>all</u> household members (First, Middle Initial, Last)	Name of school and grade level for each child/or indicate "NA" if child is not in school.							Check if a foster child (legal responsibility of welfare agency or court) *If all children listed below are foster children,								Check if No Income		
,	School						Gra	de		sk	ip to	Part 5 to sign						
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Part 2. BENEFITS: If any member of your household receives Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Ohio Works First (OWF) benefits, provide the name and 7 or 10-digit case number for the person who receives benefits and skip to Part 5. If no one receives these benefits, skip to Part 3.									benefits, ip to Part									
NAME:																		
Part 3. If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and email Denise Traphagen at dtraphagen@twinsburgcsd.org																		
Homeless Migrant Runaway Part 4. TOTAL HOUSEHOLD GROSS INCOME (before deductions). List all income on the same line as the person who receives it. Check the box for how often it is received. Record each income only once.																		
2. GROSS INCOME AND HOW OFTEN IT WAS RECEIVED																		
	Earnings from work before	Weekly	ry 2 Weeks	Twice Monthly	Monthly	sup	ild port,	Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	Twice Monthly	Monthly	Pensions, retirement, Social Security,	Weekly	ry 2 Weeks	Twice Monthly	Monthly	All Othe (indicate such as "monthly"	er Income frequency, "weekly" "quarterly"
1. NAME	deductions	-	Every ;	Ϋ́	_	alim	nony		Eve	Ĭ.	_	SSI, VA benefits		Every 2	Ϋ́	-	"ann	ually"
(List all household members with income)	\$200					\$1	ΕO					\$0					\$50.00/ c	wortork.
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Part 5. SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL FEE WAIVER ADULT CONSENT: Your child(ren) may qualify for a waiver of their school instructional fees. Your permission is required to share your meal application information with school officials to determine if your child(ren) qualifies for a fee waiver. Answering this question will not change whether your children will receive free or reduced-price meals. Please check a box: Yes, I agree to have my meal application used to determine if my child(ren) qualifies for a fee waiver.																		
☐ No, I do not agree to ha	ave my meal a	appl	cat	ion	use	d to de	etermi	ne i	f m	y ch	ild(ı	ren) qualifies fo	or a	fee	wa	iver		
Signature of Parent/Guardian:									_	Date	e: _			_				
Part 6. SIGNATURE AND LAST FOUR DIGITS	S OF SOCIAL	. SE	CU	RIT	ΥN	IUMBI	ER (Al	DUL										
An adult household member must sign the appler her Social Security Number or mark the "I d	ication. If Par	t 4 i	s c	om	plet	ed, th	e adu	lt si	igni	ing	the	form must als						of his or
I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the school will receive federal funds based on the information I give. I understand that school officials may verify (check) the information. I understand that deliberate misrepresentation of the information may cause my children to lose meal benefits and I may be subject to prosecution under state and federal statutes. Sign here: X																		
Address:Phone Number: Last four digits of your Social Security Number:										_								
Part 7. Children's ethnic and racial identities: Whelps to make sure we are fully serving our commeals.	unity. Respond	ding	to tl	nis s	secti	on is o	ptiona	l an	d do	oes								
Choose one ethnicity:	Choose or	ne o	r m	ore	(reg	ardless	s of eth	nnici	ty):	-				_	-	_		_
☐ Hispanic/Latino ☐ Asian ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native ☐ Black or African American ☐ Not Hispanic/Latino ☐ White ☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander																		
	Do not comp																	
Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 Weeks x 26, Twice A Month x 24, Monthly x 12 Total Income: Per: _ Week, _ Every 2 Weeks, _ Twice per Month, _ Month, _ Year Household size: Categorical Eligibility: Date Withdrawn: Eligibility: Free Reduced Denied Reason: Determining/Approval Official's Signature: Date: Confirming Official's Signature: Date:																		
Confirming Official's Signature: Date:																		
If selected for Verification, Date Verification Notice Verification Result: No Change Free to Rec			Res Fre	pon e to	se [Pai	Date: _ d	Red	luce	2 nd d P	Not rice	ice to F	Sent:Redu	Reced	sult Pric	s S ce to	ent: o Pa	id	

Your children may qualify for free or reduced-price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES 2019-2020										
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly							
1	\$23,107	\$1,926	\$445							
2	31,284	2,607	602							
3	39,461	3,289	759							
4	47,638	3,970	917							
5	55,815	4,652	1,074							
6	63,992	5,333	1,231							
7	72,169	6,015	1,388							
8	80,346	6,696	1,546							
Each additional person:	8,177	682	158							

Privacy Act Statement: This explains how we will use the information you give us.

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You are not required to provide information, but if information is not provided, the state agency cannot approve your child for free or reduced-price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Ohio Works First (OWF) case number or other identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced-price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

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, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: How to File a Complaint, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.