



Public Release

The Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Nutrition Programs and School Transportation 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 7-1-2006 to 6-30-2007

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Free Meals</u>					<u>Reduced Price Meals</u>				
	<u>Yearly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Every two weeks</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Twice a Month</u>	<u>Yearly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Every two weeks</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Twice a Month</u>
1	\$12,740	\$1,062	\$ 490	\$ 245	\$ 531	\$18,130	\$1,511	\$ 698	\$ 349	\$ 756
2	17,160	1,430	660	330	715	24,420	2,035	940	470	1,018
3	21,580	1,799	830	415	900	30,710	2,560	1,182	591	1,280
4	26,000	2,167	1,000	500	1,084	37,000	3,084	1,424	712	1,542
5	30,420	2,535	1,170	585	1,268	43,290	3,608	1,665	833	1,804
6	34,840	2,904	1,340	670	1,452	49,580	4,132	1,907	954	2,066
7	39,260	3,272	1,510	755	1,636	55,870	4,656	2,149	1,075	2,328
8	43,680	3,640	1,680	840	1,820	62,160	5,180	2,391	1,196	2,590
For each additional family member add:	+4,420	+369	+170	+85	+185	+ 6,290	+525	+242	+121	+263

Families whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible either for free meals or for reduced price meals. Food Assistance households and Family Investment Program (FIP) households are eligible for free meals. Most Food Assistance households will receive a letter from the Department of Human Services which will qualify the children listed on the letter for free meals. Sign the letter and deliver it to the school and the children listed will receive free meals at school. These households do not complete an application form.

Households not receiving Food Assistance or FIP/TANF must list: names of all household members; the social security number of the adult household member signing the application or indicate that this household member does not possess a social security number; the amount and source of the income received by each household member; and the signature of an adult household member certifying that the information provided is correct.

Self-employed farmers and self-employed business persons who are not able to reasonably project current income may report net taxable business income shown on their preceding year's 1040 Federal Income Tax form.

Application forms are being made available to all homes by local school districts. Additional copies are available at the principal's office in each school. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year. If a family member becomes unemployed the family should contact the school to file an application.

Schools will use the information on applications to decide if children should get free or reduced price meals. Under certain conditions school officials will inform individuals connected with Title I Assessment, the National Assessment of Educational Progress, Carl Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act, and No Child Left Behind (NCLB) whether children are eligible for free or reduced price school meals. These groups will use this information for funding and/or evaluation purposes. Names, eligibility status and other information provided on the application or obtained through direct certification or verification may be disclosed to certain Federal, State or local agencies as authorized by the National School Lunch Act.

To discourage the possibility of misrepresentation, the application forms contain a statement above the space for signature certifying that all information furnished in the application is true and correct. The names of all persons living in the household and the social security number of either the household member who signs the application or that of the parent or guardian who is the primary wage earner must be entered. An additional statement is added to warn that the application is being made in connection with the receipt of Federal funds, that 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.

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.

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.

Under the provisions of the policy, school officials will review applications and determine eligibility. If parents are dissatisfied with the ruling of the officials, they may wish to discuss the decisions with the determining official on an informal basis. If they wish to make a formal appeal, a request may be made 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.

Each school and the central office has a copy of the complete local school district policy for free and reduced price meals which may be reviewed by any interested party.