**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE SCHOOL MILK For SChool year 2024-25**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

**[Name of School Agency]** serves milk every school day. Children may buy milk for **[$]**; children may also receive free milk, if eligible. This packet includes an application for free milk benefits. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. Who can get free milk?
* All children in households receiving benefits from FoodShare, The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)], or W-2 cash benefits are eligible for free milk.
* Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free milk.
* Children participating in their school’s Head Start program are eligible for free milk.
* Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free milk.
* Children may qualify to receive free milk if your household’s income is at or below the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.

**FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 2024-25**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Household size | Yearly ($) | Monthly ($) | Weekly ($) |
| 1 | 19,578 | 1,632 | 377 |
| 2 | 26,572 | 2,215 | 511 |
| 3 | 33,566 | 2,798 | 646 |
| 4 | 40,560 | 3,380 | 780 |
| 5 | 47,554 | 3,963 | 915 |
| 6 | 54,548 | 4,546 | 1,049 |
| 7 | 61,542 | 5,129 | 1,184 |
| 8 | 68,536 | 5,712 | 1,318 |
| Each additional person: | +6,994 | +583 | +135 |

1. Do I need to fill out an application for each child? No. Use one Free Milk 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: **[name, address, phone number]**.
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 household meet these descriptions and have not been told your children will get free milk, please call or e-mail **[school, homeless liaison or migrant coordinator].**
3. My child’s application was approved last year. Do I need to fill out another one? Yes. Your child’s application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year, through **[Date].** You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
4. I get WIC. Can my child(ren) get free milk? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free milk, but it is based on income. Please send in an application.
5. my child(ren) qualifies for BADGERCARE PLUS OR MEDICAID. Can my child get free milk? Children with BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid, or subsidized insurance may be eligible for free milk, but it is based on income. Please send in an application.
6. 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 milk if the household income drops below the income limit.
7. 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: **[name, address, phone number, email]**.
8. May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen?Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be U.S. citizens to qualify for free milk.
9. Who should I include as members of my household? You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends) who share income and expenses. You must include yourself and all children living with you. Also include household members temporarily living away from home, such as college students. If you live with other people who are economically independent (for example, people who you do not support, who do not share income with you or your children, and who pay a pro-rated share of expenses), do not include them.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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. Do not include any combat pay resulting from deployment as income.
13. My family needs more help. Are there other programs we might apply for? To find out how to apply for FoodShare or other assistance benefits, contact your local county human services office or call 1-800-362-3002.

If you have other questions or need help, call **[phone number]**.

Sincerely,

**[signature]**