



Columbus School District

200 West School Street • Columbus, Wisconsin 53925 • (920)623-5950

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Columbus School District** offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs **\$1.55 for Grades K-12**; lunch costs **\$2.50 for Grades K-3, \$2.75 for Grades 4-8 and \$2.95 for Grades 9-12**. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is **.30** for breakfast and **.40** for lunch.

1. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. Complete the application to apply for free or reduced price meals. *Use one Free and Reduced Price School Meals 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: **your child's school office or the district office.**
2. WHO CAN GET FREE MEALS? All children in households receiving benefits from FoodShare, FDPIR or W-2 Cash Benefits, and most foster children can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household's gross income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines.
3. CAN HOMELESS, RUNAWAY, AND MIGRANT CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? If you haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call your **school, homeless liaison or migrant coordinator at 920-623-5950, ext. 3151** to see if they qualify.
4. WHO CAN GET REDUCED PRICE MEALS? Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Income Guidelines.
5. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? Please read the letter carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school at **920-623-5950, ext. 3154 or 3156** if you have questions.
6. 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. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILD(REN) GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please fill out an application.
8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes and we may also ask you to provide written proof.
9. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER? Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start getting FoodShare, FDPIR or W-2 cash benefits or other benefits. If you lose your job, your children may be able to get free or reduced price meals.

10. 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: **District Administrator, 200 W. School Street, Columbus, WI 53925/ 920-623-5950.**
11. 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 or reduced price meals.
12. 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). You must include yourself and all children living with you. Also include household members temporarily living away from home, such as college students.
13. 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.
14. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE INCLUDE OUR HOUSING ALLOWANCE AS INCOME? If you get an off-base housing allowance, it 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.
15. MY SPOUSE IS DEPLOYED TO A COMBAT ZONE. IS HIS/HER COMBAT PAY COUNTED AS INCOME? No, if the combat pay is received in addition to his/her basic pay because of his/her deployment and it wasn't received before s/he was deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.
16. 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 **920-623-5950.**

Si necesita ayuda, por favor llame al teléfono: 920-623-5950.

Si vous voudriez d'aide, contactez nous au numero: 920-623-5950.

Sincerely,

Nancy Liverseed
Business Administrator