FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. The School District of Bowler offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast is free to all students. Lunch prices are as follows: Grades K-3, \$1.90, semester \$142.50; Grades 4-6, \$2.00, semester \$150.00; and Grades 7-12, \$2:15, semester \$161.25. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced lunch price is \$0.40 per day or \$36.00 per semester. 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 GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?
 - 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 meals.
 - Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
 - Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
 - Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
 - Children may receive free or reduced price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal
 Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income
 falls at or below the limits on this chart.

| Household size | Yearly (\$) | Monthly (\$) | Weekly (\$) |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1 | 21,978 | 1,832 | 423 |
| 2 | 29,637 | 2,470 | 570 |
| 3 | 37,296 | 3,108 | 718 |
| 4 | 44,955 | 3,747 | 865 |
| 5 | 52,614 | 4,385 | 1,012 |
| 6 | 60,273 | 5,023 | 1,160 |
| 7 | 67,951 | 5,663 | 1,307 |
| 8 | 75,647 | 6,304 | 1,455 |
| Each additional person: | 7,696 | 642 | 148 |

- 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 meals, please call or e-mail Wade Turner, Homeless Liaison at 715-793-4101 ext. 5302 or email wadeturner@bowler.k12.wi.us
- 3. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. *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: Linda Brend, District Accountant, 500 S. Almon St., Bowler, WI 54416.
- 4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? No, but please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact Linda Brend, District Accountant, 715-793-4101 or email lindabrend@bowler.k12.wi.us immediately.
- 5. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF MY CHILD ATTENDS A COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION SCHOOL (CEP)? If your child attends a school that participates in CEP, receipt of free breakfast and lunch meals does not depend on returning this

application. However, this information is necessary for other programs and may be used to determine if your household is eligible for additional benefits.

- 6. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not send in a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for meals.
- 7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please send in an application.
- 8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
- 9. 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 and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
- 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: Faith M. Gagnon, 500 S. Almon St. Bowler, WI 54416, 715-793-4101
- 11. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced price meals.
- 12. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you <u>normally</u> 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.
- 13. 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.
- 14. 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.
- 15. 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. Contact Linda Brend, District Accountant, 500 S. Almon St., Bowler, WI 54416 or 715-793-4101 or email lindabrend@bowler.k12.wi.us to receive a second application.
- 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 assistance office or call 1-800-362-3002.

If you have other questions or need help, call 715-793-4101 ext. 6312.

Sincerely,

Linda Brend, District Accountant School District of Bowler 500 South Almon Street Bowler, WI 54416

HOW TO APPLY FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Please use these instructions to help you fill out the application for free or reduced price school meals. You only need to submit **one** application per household, even if your children attend more than one school in [School District]. The application must be filled out completely to certify your children for free or reduced price school meals.

Please follow these instructions in order! Each step of the instructions is the same as the steps on your application. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please contact School District of Bowler, Linda Brend, District Accountant, 500 S. Almon St. Bowler, WI 54416 or call 715-793-4101 ext.6312

PLEASE USE A PEN (NOT A PENCIL) WHEN FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION AND DO YOUR BEST TO PRINT CLEARLY.

STEP 1: LIST ALL INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND STUDENTS UP TO AND INCLUDING GRADE 12 WHO ARE HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

Tell us how many infants, children, and school students live in your household. They do NOT have to be related to you to be a part of your household.

Who should I list here?

When filling out this section, please include all members in your household who are:

- Children age 18 or under and are supported with the household's income;
- In your care under a foster arrangement, or qualify as homeless, migrant, runaway youth, or Head Start;
- Students attending [school/school system here], regardless of age.
- A) List each child's name. For each child, print their first name, middle initial and last name. Use one line of the application for each child. When writing names, print one letter in each box. Stop if you run out of space. If there are more children present than lines on the application, attach a second piece of paper with all required information for the additional children.
- B) List the name of the school the child attends or N/A if the child does not attend school.
- C) Do you have any foster children? If any children listed are foster children, mark the "Foster Child" box next to the child's name. Foster children who live with you may count as members of your household and should be listed on your application. If you are only applying for foster children, after completing STEP 1, skip to STEP 4 of the application and these instructions.
- D) Are any children homeless, migrant, or runaway? If you believe any child listed in this section may meet this description, please mark the "Homeless, Migrant, Runaway" box next to the child's name and complete all steps of the application.
- E) Are any children in Head Start? If any child is enrolled in a Head Start Program, check the Head Start box after the child's name and complete all steps of the application.

STEP 2: DO ANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS (INCLUDING YOU) CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS: FOODSHARE, W-2 CASH BENEFITS, OR FDPIR?

If anyone in your household participates in the assistance programs listed below, your children are eligible for free school meals:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or FoodShare
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or W-2 Cash Benefits
- The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

A) IF NO ONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATES IN ANY OF THE ABOVE LISTED PROGRAMS:

- Circle 'NO' and skip to STEP 3 on these instructions and STEP 3 on your application.
- Leave STEP 2 blank.

B) IF ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATES IN ANY OF THE ABOVE LISTED PROGRAMS:

- Circle 'YES' and provide a case number for FoodShare, W-2 Cash Benefits, or FDPIR. You only
 need to write one case number. If you participate in one of these programs and do not know your
 case number, contact your case worker. You must provide a case number on your application if
 you circled "YES". Please note: A BadgerCare case number cannot be used on this application,
 only the programs listed above.
- Skip to STEP 4, leave STEP 3 blank.

STEP 3: REPORT INCOME FOR ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

A) Report all income earned by children. Refer to the chart titled "Sources of Income for Children" in these instructions and report the combined gross income for ALL children listed in Step 1 in your household in the box marked "Child Income." Only count foster children's income if you are applying for them together with the rest of your household. It is optional for the household to list foster children living with them as part of the household.

What is Child Income?

Child income is money received from outside your household that is paid **directly** to your children. Many households do not have any child income. Use the chart below to determine if your household has child income to report.

| Sources of I | Income for Children |
|---|---|
| Sources of Child Income | Example(s) |
| Earnings from work | A child has a job where they earn a salary or wages. |
| Social Security o Disability Payments o Survivor's Benefits | A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits. A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives social security benefits. |
| Income from persons outside the householder | |
| Income from any other source | A child receives income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust. |

FOR EACH ADULT HOUSEHOLD MEMBER:

Who should I list here?

When filling out this section, please include all members in your household who are:

• Living with you and share income and expenses, even if not related and even if they do not receive income of their own.

Do not include people who:

- Live with you but are not supported by your household's income and do not contribute income to your household.
- Children and students already listed in Step 1.

How do I fill in the income amount and source?

FOR EACH TYPE OF INCOME:

- Use the charts in this section to determine if your household has income to report.
- Report all amounts in gross income ONLY. Report all income in whole dollars. Do not
 include cents.
 - o Gross income is the total income received before taxes or deductions.
 - Many people think of income as the amount they "take home" and not the total, "gross" amount. Make sure that the income you report on this application has NOT been reduced to pay for taxes, insurance premiums, or any other amounts taken from your pay.
- Write a "0" in any fields where there is no income to report. Any income fields left empty or blank will be counted as zeroes. If you write '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. If local officials have known or available information that your household income was reported incorrectly, your application will be verified for cause.
- Mark how often each type of income is received using the check boxes to the right of each field.
- B) List Adult Household member's name. Print the name of each household member in the boxes marked "Names of Adult Household Members (First and Last)." Do not list any household members you listed in STEP 1. If a child listed in STEP 1 has income, follow the instructions in STEP 3, part A.
- C) Report earnings from work. Refer to the chart titled "Sources of Income for Adults" in these instructions and report all income from work in the "Earnings from Work" field on the application. This is usually the money received from working at jobs. If you are a self-employed business or farm owner, you will report your net income.

What if I am self-employed?

If you are self-employed, report income from that work as a **net** amount. This is calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of your business from its gross receipts or revenue.

D) Report income from Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony/SSI/VA Benefits. Refer to the chart titled "Sources of Income for Adults" in these instructions and report all income that applies in the "Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony/SSI/VA Benefits" field on the application. Do not report the value of any cash value public assistance benefits NOT listed on the chart. If income is received from child support or alimony, only court-ordered payments should be reported here. Informal but regular payments should be reported as "other" income in the next part.

- E) Report income from Pensions/Retirement/Social Security/All other income. Refer to the chart titled "Sources of Income for Adults" in these instructions and report all income that applies in the "Pensions/Retirement/Social Security, Other Income" field on the application.
- **F)** Special Situations. For seasonal workers and others whose income fluctuates and usually earn more money in some months than others. In these situations, project the annual rate of income and report that. This includes workers with annual employment contracts but may choose to have salaries paid over a shorter period of time. This includes school employees.
- G) Report total household size. Enter the total number of household members in the field "Total Household Members (Children and Adults)." This number MUST be equal to the number of household members listed in STEP 1 and STEP 3. If there are any members of your household that you have not listed on the application, go back and add them. It is very important to list all household members, as the size of your household determines your income cutoff for free and reduced price meals.
- H) Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number. The household's primary wage earner or another adult household member must enter the last four digits of their Social Security Number in the space provided. You are eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social Security Number. If no adult household members have a Social Security Number, leave this space blank and mark the box to the right labeled "Check if no SSN."

| | ces of Income for A | |
|---|--|--|
| Earnings from Work | Public Assistance/ Child Support /Alimony | Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income |
| Salary, wages, cash bonuses Net income from self-employment (farm or business) Strike benefits If you are in the U.S. Military: Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances) Allowances for off-base housing, food, and clothing | Unemployment benefits Worker's compensation Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Cash assistance from State or local government Alimony payments Child support payments Veteran's benefits | Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits) Private Pensions or disability Income from trusts or estates Annuities Investment income Earned interest Rental income Regular cash payments from outside household |

STEP 4: CONTACT INFORMATION AND ADULT SIGNATURE

All applications must be signed by an adult member of the household. By signing the application, that household member is promising that all information has been truthfully and completely reported. Before completing this section, please also make sure you have read the privacy and civil rights statements on the back of the application.

- A) Provide your contact information. Write your current address in the fields provided if this information is available. If you have no permanent address, this does not make your children ineligible for free or reduced price school meals. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.
- B) Sign and print your name. Print your name in the box "Printed name of adult completing the form." And sign your name in the box "Signature of adult completing the form."
- C) Write Today's Date. In the space provided, write today's date in the box.
- D) Share children's Racial and Ethnic Identities (optional). On the back of the application, we ask you to share information about your children's race and ethnicity. This field is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price school meals.

2016-2017 Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals

Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil).

In Community Eligibility Schools (CEP), receipt of free breakfast and lunch meals does not depend on returning this application, however, this information is necessary for other progra

Apply online at: (Insert link if you have an online application or delete if not applicable).

| STEP 1 List ALL infants, children, and childents up to and including a | | 100 | inconstant programs. |
|--|---|--|--|
| - Of | hares income and expenses, even if not re | enola Members | If more spaces are required for additional names, attach another sheet of paper. |
| Child's First Name | Child's Last Name | | Grade NA if not in school Code Numbers, Sent National Code Numbers, Sent Code Numbers, Se |
| | | | Adde year |
| | | | CUest at u |
| STEP 2 Do any Household Members (including you) currently particinate | reantly north charte in a variation of the | | |
| | The last of the thing of the toll | Case Number | Case Number: |
| If you answered NO > Complete STEP 3. If you answered YES > Write a case number here, then | ase number here, then go to STEP 4 (Do n | go to STEP 4 (Do not complete STEP 3) | |
| STEP 3 Report Income for ALL Household Members (Skip this step if you answered 'Yes' to STEP 2) | skip this step if you answered 'Yes' to S | Write o | Write only one case rumber in this space. Badger Care is not a qualifier for free meats. Flip the page and review the charts titled "Sources of Income" for more information. |
| | TOTAL income eamed by all infants, child | by all infants, children and students up to and | Child income Weekly Bi-Weekly 2: Moreth Annahiy |
| B. Alf Adult Household Members (including yourself) List all Household Members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive Income. For each Household Member listed, if they do receive income, report total gross income (before taxes) for each source in whole dollars only (no cents). If they do not receive income from any source, write '0', if you enter '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to receive income to receive income to the property of the p | f they do not receive Income. For each Hou ne from any source, write '0', if you enter '0' o | sehold Member listed, if they do receive i r leave any fields blank, you are certifying | ır, |
| Name of Adult Household Members (First and Last) Earnings from Work (Weetly) | How other? Batheetty 2: Month | How other? Weekly Buffeetly 2x Murch Monthly | h Monthly |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | • | | * |
| | Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of Primary Wage Earner or Other Adult Household Member | x x x x x | Check if no SSN |
| STEP 4 Contact information and adult signature | income is reported. I understand that this in | formation is given in connection with the | e receipt of Federal funds, and that school officials may verify (check) the |
| | y socialist and illiay to prosecute | under applicable State and Federal law | |
| Street Address (if available) Apt # | City | State Zip | Daytime Phone and Email (optional) |
| Printed Name of Adult Completing the Form | Signature of Adult Completing the Form | шо | Today's Date Mn (Dav/yr |
| | | | ו האופון ע בייניה ווויכיביקון דון |

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 Date Mo./Day/Yr found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than benefits. Individuals who are deat, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call If YES, the processing of this application cannot be paid for by the nonprofit school food service account. Only non-CEP applications are used for selecting the verification To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) retirement and black lung benefits) Persons with disabilities who require atternative means of communication for program Information (e.g. Braitle, targe print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for Social Security (including railroad Regular income from trusts or Privale pensions or disability Regular cash payments from Pensions / Retirement / All Other Income Investment income outside household Reason for Denial or Withdrawal Earned interest ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander Rental income Annuilies benefits estates sample, conducting an independent review of applications, and the Certification and Benefit Issuance portion of the Administrative Review. Sources of Income for Adults Verifying Official's Signature 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 State or local government Public Assistance / Alimony / Unemployment benefits Child support payments Worker's compensation Supplemental Security Cash assistance from (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or tetter to USDA by: Required for Verification Alimony payments Veteran's benefits Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 Weeks x 28, Twice a Month x 24, Monthly x 12 Strike benefits Income (SSI) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Date Denied This institution is an equal opportunity provider. Date Mo./Day/Yr. U.S. Department of Agriculture 2 Net income from self-employment (farm include combat pay, FSSA or privatized or business); calculated by subtracting program.intake@usda.gov. Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT Allowances for off-base housing, food Denied the total operating expenses of your business from its gross receipts or revenue; refer to Schedule C or F Black or African American (202) 690-7442; or Eligibility Salary, wages, cash bonuses Reduced Earnings from Work YES If you are in the U.S. Military: housing allowances) Free and clothing Email: Vaii Fax: Are all students on this application from a CEP school? Categorical Eligibility Confirming Official's Signature The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and not have to give the information, but if you do not, we 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 programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number is not required when you apply on or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity conducted or funded by USDA education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Not Hispanic or Latino equired for Verification Asian Household enforcement of the funch and breakfast programs. We MAY share your eligibility information with (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights Size A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their A child has a regular full or part-lime job where A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or frust A friend or extended family member regularly A child is blind or disabled and receives Social does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals. child receives Social Security benefits Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities Yearty Sources of Income for Children American Indian or Alaskan Native Date Mo./Day/Yr. gives a child spending money Example(s) they earn a salary or wages Monthly How often? Bi-Weekly 2x Month Security benefits Hispanic or Latino For School Use Only For schools participating in CEP only: Weekly Income from person outside Determining Official's Signature Sources of Child Income Disability payments Income from any other Survivor's benefits Earnings from work Race Check one or more Social Security the household Ethnicity Check one Do not fill out OPTIONAL program rules. fotal Income source

Source of Income

INSTRUCTIONS