

FREE AND REDUCED MEAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

All children need a new application each school year. Applications for the **New Year** must be in by September 30, 2010.

If an application is received after September 30, students will be responsible for the cost of their meals until the application is renewed and approved.

Please note if a student was free or reduced last year, they are still eligible until September 30 2010, which is why applications must be received by September 30 in order to avoid interruption in their free and reduced meal plan.

However if applications are not received by September 30 then the student is responsible for the cost of their meals from September 30 until their new application is approved.

Any children who were not on the free and reduced plan last year must pay for their meals until the new application is approved.

High School students who qualify for the free meal program also qualify for Fee Waiver program. This really helps parents who need to offset the cost of High School programs.

To return the application you may choose to mail it to The Foodservice Director @

Grand County School District

264 S 400 E

Moab, Utah 84532

You can also return it to one of the schools directly, take it to the District Office, bring it to the New Votech building at 604 S 400 E. Attention Debbie Rappe or have your child return it. The last option can result in delays in being approved as the application gets misplaced easily.

If you are a seasonal worker please read the last question as it instructs you how to fill out your income. We want to make sure your income is correct and that you qualify for the help that you need. (If you write down the income you are now receiving and you know at the end of October your income will end but we don't know that you are a seasonal worker we may project your income incorrectly.)

Please make sure that you fill out all required information:

Part 1- Please, use only one application per family, listing the **names of each child in school and the school he or she attends.**

Part 2-If the child is homeless if the child is not leave blank.

Part 3-If the child is a **Foster child** and the amount of money the child receives as income from the state. They are considered a household of one and the income does not go against them. It is required by the Federal Government.

Part 4-List **everyone** living in the household and list their **income** if they have any and how often it is received.

Part 5- We must have a signature, address and social security number if you have one. If you do not have a social security number check the box stating that you do not have one.

Delays in application are usually caused if applications are incomplete. Again you must have all of this information to be approved.

Families can help their school by returning their applications even if they choose not to participate in the school lunch program. It is the number of students who qualify for the program not the number of students enrolled in the program that counts toward program qualification.

Federal funds are available for free and reduced price school meals, so school districts will not lose money providing these meals.

Collecting this information is important for two reasons; it qualifies children to receive the meals and the data that is collected by October, is used to determine which schools qualify for additional funding and programs. Schools are eligible to participate if the October data shows that at least 50% of the student population qualifies for free and reduced price school lunches. This includes Free Summer lunch for all children 18 and under, the E rate program that helps fund technology for all the schools and for our local library, the After School Snack Program, Title 1, The Beacon Program and the Mentor Program. The data that is collected in October by the Free and Reduced Meal Program affects so many programs in Moab. Last year we were at 41.76%. We need you to apply. This program enriches our community in more ways than you know.

Please note: During the first 30 days of the school year the student's status will change immediately once the new lunch application has been approved.

Frequent questions:

Do I need to fill out an application for each child? No- complete the application to apply for free and reduced meals. Use one application for all students in your household. Complete all the information so your application will be approved in a timely manner.

Who can get free meals? Children receive food stamps or TANF and most foster children can get free meals regardless of your income. Also your children can get free meals if your household income is within the free limits on the income guideline.

May I apply if someone in my household is not a US citizen? Yes you or your children do not have to be a US citizen to qualify for free or reduced price meals nor do you have to be documented.

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. You must include also their income if they have any. If not check the box no income.

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 fill out an application.

Should I fill out an application if I got a letter this year saying my children are approved for free or reduced price meals? Please read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. Call Debbie Rappe @ 259-2757 if you have questions.

If I don't qualify now may I apply later? Yes. You may apply I at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start getting Food Stamps, or other benefits. If you lose your job, your children may be able to get free or reduced price meals. Again if you are a seasonal worker please follow instructions in the last question.

What if my income is not always the same? List the amount that you normally get. For example, if you normally get \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only got \$900, put down that you get \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you only get it sometimes.

What if I am self employed? Income for self employed-

Self employed persons may use last year's income as a basis to project their current year's net income, unless their current net income provides a more accurate measure. Self employed persons are credited with net income rather than gross income. Net income for self employment is determined by subtracting business expenses from gross receipts.

What if I am a seasonal worker and unemployed for half the year?

Special situations:

Projected income for Seasonal Workers and others-

Seasonal workers and others whose income fluctuates usually earn more money in some months than in other months. Consequently, the previous month's income may distort the household's actual circumstances. In these situations, the household may project its annual rate of income and report this amount as its current income. If the prior year's income provides an accurate reflection of the household's current annual rate of income, the prior year may be used as a basis for the projected annual rate of income.

What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application? You should talk to CNP Supervisor Debbie Rappe 435-259-2757. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing Margaret Hopkin 264 S 400 E, Moab Utah 84532 435-259-5317. This institution is an equal opportunity provider