

Lake Worth Independent School District
Letter to Households
National School Lunch/School Breakfast Programs
School Year 2011-2012

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. The Lake Worth Independent School District offers healthy meals every school day. *Beginning 10/24/2011, breakfast will cost \$1.25; lunch will cost \$2.00 for K-6th grades and \$2.50 for 7th – 12th grades.* Your child may qualify for free or for reduced-priced meals. Reduced breakfast is \$0.30 and reduced lunch is \$0.40.

Frequently Asked Questions

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 the required information. **You may return the completed application to:**

Lake Worth ISD, Child Nutrition Department
6800 Telephone Road, Lake Worth, TX 76135
817-306-4200 extension 1052

The application can be found at the following link: www.lwisd.org
2. **Who can get free meals?** Children in households getting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits (formerly the Food Stamp Program) or TANF can get free meals regardless of your income. Your benefit letter from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) is your documentation for free meals. If you have not already received a letter from your school stating that your household is eligible for free meals, you may take your HHSC benefit letter to the LWISD Child Nutrition Department to be certified for free meals. If a child in your household is directly certified due to receiving SNAP or TANF benefits, all children in your household are eligible for free meals. If a child in your household is not included on the Letter of Direct Certification, sent to you, or you have questions, call the Child Nutrition office at 817-306-4200, extension 1052.
3. **Should I fill out an application if I got a letter this school year saying my children are approved for free or reduced-price means?** In most cases no, however read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. Call the Child Nutrition office at 817-306-4200, extension 1052 if you have questions or a member of your household is not listed on the letter. If your household does not receive SNAP or TANF, your children may still be eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals if your household income is less than the amounts listed on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Please complete the application and submit it to the Child Nutrition office. Head Start students and foster children also qualify for free meals.
4. **Can homeless, runaway and migrant children get free meals?** Yes. If you have not been notified for free status under these categories, please call the Child Nutrition office to see if your child(ren) qualify.
5. **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 Chart. See the Lake Worth ISD website to view the chart. www.lwisd.org
6. **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.
7. **Will the information I provide be checked/verified?** Yes, we may ask you to send written proof.
8. **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 SNAP, TANF or other benefits (such as unemployment benefits).
9. **What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application?** Contact: Kathy Ibrahim, Child Nutrition Director, 6800 Telephone Road, Lake Worth, TX 76135 (817)306-4200 x 1050
10. **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 a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced-price meals.
11. **Who should I include as members of my household?** You must include yourself and all people living in your household, related or not (such as children, grandchildren, or other relatives or friends).
12. **What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount that you normally receive. 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 pay, include that amount as income. If you do not normally get overtime pay, do not include it as income.
13. **We are in the military; do we include our housing allowance as income?** If your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. All other allowances must be included in your gross income.

If you have other questions or need help, call 817-306-4200 extension 1052.

Sincerely,

Kathy Ibrahim
Child Nutrition Director