FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2022-23

Dear Parent/Guardian:

- 1. Children need healthy meals to learn. The Kaukauna Area School District offers healthy meals every school day. Elementary breakfast cost is \$1.80, secondary breakfast cost is \$2.05; elementary lunch cost is \$3.05, secondary lunch cost is \$3.30. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced meals. Reduced meal price is \$0.30 for breakfast and \$0.40 for lunch. This packet includes an application for free or reduced price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common guestions and answers to help you with the application process.
- 2. 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, when listed on the application.
 - 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 qualify to receive free or reduced price meals if your household's income is at or below the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 2022-2023							
Household size	Yearly (\$)	Monthly (\$)	Weekly (\$)				
1	25,142	2,096	484				
2	33,874	2,823	652				
3	42,606	3,551	820				
4	51,338	4,279	988				
5	60,070	5,006	1,156				
6	68,802	5,734	1,324				
7	77,534	6,462	1,492				
8	86,266	7,189	1,659				
Each additional person:	8,732	728	168				

- 3. 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: Karen Wirth at 920-766-6134 or wirthk@kaukaunasd.org.
- 4. 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: Pam Mischler, 1701 Cty Hwy CE, Kaukauna WI 54130 or 920-759-6122 or mischlerp@kaukaunasd.org.
- 5. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS? Please read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. If your letter indicated you qualify for free meals, then no application is needed. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact: Pam Mischler, 1701 Cty Hwy CE, Kaukauna, WI 54130 or 920-759-6122 or mischlerp@kauakaunasd.org immediately. If your household was notified it qualified for reduced price meals, we encourage you to complete an application to potentially qualify for free meals based on household size and income.
- 6. 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.

- 7. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? Yes! You are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application if you are able. The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit www.kaukauna.k12.wi.us to begin or to learn more about the online application process. Contact Pam Mischler, 1701 Cty Hwy CE, Kaukauna WI 54130 or 920-759-6122 or mischlerp@kaukaunasd.org. If you have any questions about the application process.
- 8. 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 and for the first few days of this school year, through **10/13/2022**, or when a new eligibility is determined. You must submit a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not submit 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.
- 9. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC <u>may</u> be eligible for free or reduced price meals, but it is based on income. Please submit an application.
- 10. MY CHILD(REN) QUALIFIES FOR BADGERCARE PLUS OR MEDICAID. CAN MY CHILD GET FREE MEALS? Children with BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid, or subsidized insurance <u>may</u> be eligible for free or reduced price meals, but it is based on household income and household size. Please submit an application to determine if your household qualifies.
- 11. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
- 12. 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 or experience a financial hardship may become eligible for free and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
- 13. 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: **Bob Schafer**, **1701 Cty Hwy CE**, **Kaukauna**, **WI 54130**, **or 920-766-6100 or schaferb@kaukaunasd.org**.
- 14. 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.
- 15. 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.
- 16. 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 <u>also</u> be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you <u>meant</u> to do so.
- 17. 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.
- 18. 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.
- 19. 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 920-759-6122.

Sincerely,

Pam Mischler

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 Kaukauna Area 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. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please contact Pam Mischler at 920-759-6122 or email to mischlerp@kaukaunasd.org.

If your child attends a Community Eligibility Provision School (CEP), receipt of free breakfast and lunch meals does not depend on returning this application; however, this information is necessary for other programs.

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

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

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 grades 12 or under AND are supported with the household's income; and
- In your care under a foster arrangement, or qualify as homeless, migrant, or runaway youth, or enrolled in a Head Start program.

A) List each child's name.

Print each child's name. Use one line of the application for each child. When printing names, write one letter in each box. Stop if you run out of space. If there are more children in household than lines on the application, attach a second piece of paper with all required information for the additional children.

B) Enter the grade and the name of the school the child attends or mark n/a if not in school.

C) Do you have any foster children? If any children listed are foster children, mark the "Foster Child" box next to the children's names. If you are ONLY applying for foster children, after finishing STEP 1, go to STEP 4. Foster children who live with you may count as members of your household and should be listed on your application. If you are applying for both foster and non-foster children, go to step 3.

D) Are any children homeless, migrant, runaway or enrolled in a Head Start program? If you believe any child listed in this section meets this description, mark the "Homeless, Migrant, Runaway or Head Start" box next to the child's name and complete all steps of the application.

STEP 2: DO ANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN FoodShare, W-2 Cash Benefits OR FDPIR?

If anyone in your household (including you) currently participates in one or more of 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:

 Leave STEP 2 blank or check "No" and go to STEP 3.

B) If anyone in your household participates in any of the above assistance programs:

- Write a case number and <u>name of the assistance program</u> you or any member
 of the household participates in for FoodShare, W-2 Cash Benefits, or FDPIR.
 You only need to provide one case number. If you participate in one of these
 programs and do not know your case number, contact your case worker.
 Medicaid and BadgerCare case numbers do NOT qualify for free or reduced
 price meals.
- Go to STEP 4.

STEP 3: REPORT INCOME FOR ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

How do I report my income?

- Use the charts titled "Sources of Income for Children" and "Sources of Income for Adults," printed on the back side of the application form, 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. Gross income is the total income received before taxes. Many people think of income as the amount they "take home" (listed as "net pay" on paycheck stub) 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 also be counted as a zero. If you write '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. If local officials

STEP 3: REPORT INCOME FOR ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

suspect that your household income was reported incorrectly, your application will be investigated.

• Mark how often each type of income is received using the boxes to the right of each field.

3.A. REPORT INCOME EARNED BY CHILDREN

A) Report all income earned or received by children. 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 personal income if you are applying for them together with the rest of your 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.

3.B. REPORT INCOME EARNED BY ADULTS

List adult household members' names.

• Print the name of each household member in the boxes marked "Name of Adult Household Members (First and Last)." When filling out this section, please include ALL adult members in your household who are living with you and share income and expenses, even if they are 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.
- o Infants, children and students already listed in **STEP 1**.
- **C)** Report earnings from work. Report all total gross income (before taxes) 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? 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.
- F) Fluctuating Income. 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; for example, school employees.
- assistance/child support/alimony/SSI/VA benefits. Report all income that applies in the "Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony" field on the application. Do not report the cash value of any public assistance benefits NOT listed on the chart. If income is received from child support or alimony, only report court-ordered payments. Informal but regular payments should be reported as "other" income in the next part.
- **G)** Report total household size. Enter the total number of household members in the field "Total Household Members (Children and Adults)." This number <u>MUST</u> 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 affects your eligibility for free and reduced price meals.
- E) Report income from pensions/retirement/all other income. Report all income that applies in the "Pensions/Retirement/Social Security/All Other Income" field on the application.
- H) Provide the last four digits of your Social Security
 Number (SSN). An adult household member must enter the last four digits of their SSN in the space provided. You are eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a SSN. If no adult household members have a SSN, leave this space blank and mark the box to the right labeled "Check box if no SSN."

STEP 4: CONTACT INFORMATION AND ADULT SIGNATURE

An adult member of the household must sign the application. 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) Print or sign your name. The adult filling out the application must print or sign their name in the signature box.
- C) Return completed form to: KASD/Food Service, 1701 Cty Hwy CE, Kaukauna, WI 54130
- 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.

2022-2023 Household Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals

Apply online at: www.kaukauan.k12.wi.us.

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 programs.

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5	STEP 4 Contact information and adult signature Return completed form to your school. KASD/Food Service, 1701 Cty Hwy CE, Kaukauna, WI 54130																																																
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Sources of Income for Children							
Sources of Child Income	Example(s)						
- Gross earnings from work	A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages						
Social Security Disability payments	A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits						
- Survivor's benefits	 A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits 						
 Income from person outside the household 	 A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money 						
- Income from any other source	A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust						

Sources of Income for Adults								
Earnings from Work	Public Assistance / Alimony / Child Support	Pensions / Retirement / All Other Income						
- Gross salary, wages, cash bonuses - Net income from self-employment (farm or business); FARM—refer to line 3 and 6 of Schedule 1 or line 34 from Schedule F; BUSINESS—line 31 from Schedule C or 1040-Line 8, Wage and Statement, Line 3. 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 - Strike benefits	Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits) Private pensions or disability benefits Regular income from trusts or estates Annuities Investment income Earned interest Rental income Regular cash payments from outside household						

		Ciothing			
OPTIONAL	Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities				
	information about your children's race and en's eligibility for free or reduced price meal		nt and helps to make sure we	are fully serving our community. Responding	to this section is optional and
Ethnicity <i>Check one</i> Race <i>Check one or more</i>	Hispanic or Latino Not H American Indian or Alaskan Native	Hispanic or Latino	k or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Island	er White
do not have to give the inform- price meals. You must include member who signs the applica when you apply on behalf of a (SNAP), Temporary Assistanc Indian Reservations (FDPIR) of that the adult household mem will use your information to de administration and enforceme information with education, he benefits for their programs, au look into violations of program In accordance with federal civi and policies, this institution is (including gender identity and activity. Program information may be m require alternative means of co	onal School Lunch Act requires the information of ation, but if you do not, we cannot approve your cathelast four digits of the social security number of thation. The last four digits of the social security number of thation. The last four digits of the social security number of the state of the last four digits of the social security number of the for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Dicase number or other FDPIR identifier for your childer signing the application does not have a social stermine if your child is eligible for free or reduced that of the lunch and breakfast programs. We MAY stalth, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate uditors for program reviews, and law enforcement in rules. If rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (Uprohibited from discriminating on the basis of race sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or made available in languages other than English. Personmunication to obtain program information (e.g., Bould contact the responsible state or local agency the	on this application. You hild for free or reduced be adult household ber is not required sissistance Program histribution Program on Id or when you indicate security number. We price meals, and for share your eligibility a, fund, or determine officials to help them ISDA) civil rights regulations e, color, national origin, sex etaliation for prior civil rights Sons with disabilities who raille, large print, audiotape,	oo) 877-8339. If lie a program discrimination complescrimination Complaint Form which tos://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Fax2Mail.pdf, from any USDA office ust contain the complainant's name, tition in sufficient detail to inform the dil rights violation. The completed AL mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretar 1400 Independence Avenue, S Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-74	s/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0 e, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addr address, telephone number, and a written description Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the 0-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by: y for Civil Rights W or	7, USDA Program 1508-0002-508-11-28- essed to USDA. The letter of the alleged discriminatory
Do not fill out	For School Use Only	Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 5	2, Bi-Weekly (Every 2 Weeks) x 26	, Twice a Month x 24, Monthly x 12	
Total Income	How often? Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Month Monthly Yearly	Household Categorical Size Eligibility	Eligibility Free Reduced Denied	Date Denied Mo./Day/Yr. Reason for Denial or W	ithdrawal
Determining Official's Sign	nature Date Mo./Day/Yr.	Confirming Official's Signature Required for Verification process only	Date Mo./Day/	Yr. Verifying Official's Signature Required for Verification process only	Date Mo./Day/Yr.
For schools participating	g in CEP only: Are all students on thi	s application from a CEP school?	Yes No No		

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 sample, conducting an independent review of applications, and the Certification and Benefit Issuance portion of the Administrative Review.

SHARING INFORMATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS

Dear Parent/Guardian:	Date:						
	r which your children may qualify. For the following your information. Sending in this form will not change						
Yes! I DO want school officials to share i Application with school and activity for	nformation from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals						
Yes! I DO want school officials to share i Application with band and choir fees .	nformation from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals						
Yes! I DO want school officials to share in Application with bussing.	nformation from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals						
Yes! I DO want school officials to share i Application with Medicare and/or Bad	nformation from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals gercare.						
Yes! I DO want school officials to share i Application with the School Counselors	nformation from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals For College Applications						
Yes! I DO want school officials to share a Application for Scholarship opportuni	information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals ties.						
	fill out the form below to ensure that your information is ation will be shared only with the programs you checked.						
Child's Name:	_School:						
Child's Name:	_School:						
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Child's Name:	_School:						
Signature of Parent/Guardian:	Date:						
Printed Name:							
Address:							
For more information, you may call Pam Mischler mischlerp@kaukaunasd.org	at 920-759-6122 or e-mail to						

Return this form to: KASD/Chartwells, 1701 Cty Hwy CE, Kaukauna, WI 54130.

Free and Reduced Price School Meal Application
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- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
 Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
 Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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