**Free and Reduced Meals Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. What is the Free and Reduced Meal Program?**

The FARM program is a USDA sponsored program that enables qualified children to get free or reduced priced meals. This includes breakfast and lunch.

**2. Can anyone apply?**

Yes. All households with students in FCPS can apply.

**3. How does someone apply?**

You can also access our new electronic on-line system from our website [www.fcpsnutrition.com](http://www.fcpsnutrition.com). If you prefer not to submit a form online, you can complete a paper application, which can be downloaded from our website [www.fcpsnutrition.com](http://www.fcpsnutrition.com), or you can get a paper application from the school.

**4. Does an application have to be completed for each student?**

No. Only one application is necessary per household. Make sure to list all student names, grades and their FCPS schools. It is very important to include the student’s full registered name, their grade and their school.

**5. Who is responsible for paying for meals until the application is processed?**

It is the family’s responsibility to pay for their student’s meals until the application is processed. Our office has ten business days to process an application.

**6. How will I know if we qualify to receive free or reduced-price meals?**

Once the application is processed, families will receive a letter via email if we have an email address on file or US Mail if there is no email address available. The letter will inform you of the decision. It is important that the school system has a current email address and mailing address on file. **Also, please keep the letter in case you have to reference it during the school year. Many other benefits may be available if your child qualifies for free or reduced-price meals.**

**7. Do I have to complete an application each school year?**

Yes, an application needs to be completed at the beginning of each school year. However, should a family be directly certified by the state for free meals - typically because they receive SNAP or TCA benefits - they do not have to complete an application. Those families will receive a letter via email or US mail informing them of their status. It is very important to read the letter and follow the instructions.

**8. Do benefits continue from one year to the next?**

A student’s benefits will continue for 30 school days into the next school year. At which time, if a qualifying application has not been received then the student’s status will go to full price.

**9. What happens if an application is illegible or incomplete?**

If the application cannot be read or is incomplete it will be sent back to the school to be sent home with the student.