

Dear Parent/Guardian

Studies have shown that children who are not hungry perform better in school. Las Cruces Public Schools offers healthy nutritious meals daily - \$1.00 for breakfast and \$2.35 lunch at all high schools. Your children may qualify for free meals or reduced price meals by filling out an application. Reduced price is \$0.30 cents for Breakfast and \$0.40 cents for Lunch.

Household size	FEDERAL INCOME CHART FOR SCHOOL 2020-21				
	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	23,606	1,968	984	908	454
2	31,894	2,658	1,329	1,227	614
3	40,182	3,349	1,675	1,546	773
4	48,470	4,040	2,020	1,865	933
5	56,758	4,730	2,365	2,183	1,092
6	65,046	5,421	2,711	2,502	1,251
7	73,334	6,112	3,056	2,821	1,411
8	81,622	6,802	3,401	3,140	1,570
additional person Add:	8,288	691	346	316	160

- Do I need to fill out an application for each child?** No. Use one (1) 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. **The last four digits of the social security number for the adult signing the application are required.**
- Who can receive free or reduced price meals?** All children in households receiving benefits from SNAP (formerly the Food Stamp Program) Or **FDPIR** the Food Distribution Program on the Indian Reservations or **TANF** and most foster children can get free meals regardless of your income. Also your children can receive free or reduced price meals if your household's gross income is within the free or reduced limits of the Federal Income Guidelines.
- 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 haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call **Yvette Enriquez, LMSW, McKinney-Vento Project Link, Lead Family School Liaison 575-527-5913** or **Ignosencia Campos, Federal & Migrant Education Coordinator 575-527-6643** to see if your child(ren) qualify.
- Who can receive reduced price meals?** Your children can receive low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Income Guidelines.
- Should I fill out an application if I received a letter this school year saying my children are approved for free or reduced price meals?** Please read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school Nutrition Services Representative at 575- 527-5995 if you have questions.
- My child's application was approved last year. Do I need to fill out another one?** Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
- I receive 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.
- Will the information I give be checked?** Yes, we may ask you to send written proof.
- If I don't qualify now, may I apply later?** Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year.
- 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: **Jaime Calderon, Executive Director of Community Relations, 505 S. Main Suite 249 Las Cruces NM 88001 575-527-5801**
- 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.
- 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 zeros. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.
- 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 get it only sometimes.
- 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.
- My spouse is deployed to a combat zone is combat pay counted as income.** No, if the combat pay is received in addition to basic pay because of deployment and it wasn't received before deployment; combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.
- My family needs more help. Are there other programs we might apply for?** To find out how to apply for **NM Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call **1-800-432-6217**

If you have other questions or need help, call: Nutrition Services 575- 527-5995

Sincerely,

Edwanda Williams
Executive Director of Nutrition Services