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Director of YUM! Nutrition Services

Date: 8-8-19

### Media Release for Free and Reduced-Price Meals - Santa Fe ISD

Santa Fe ISD announced its policy today for providing free and reduced-price meals for children served under the attached current income eligibility guidelines. The central office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by anyone on request.

Starting on August 19, 2019 Santa Fe ISD will begin distributing letters to the households of the children in the district about eligibility benefits and any actions households need to take to apply for these benefits. Applications will be sent home the first day of school or one may be obtained at the Cowan Administration Building, YUM! Nutrition Services Office, 4133 Warpath Santa Fe, TX. 77510. Households are strongly encouraged to apply online with the School Café app or <a href="https://www.schoolcafe.com">www.schoolcafe.com</a>

### Criteria for Free and Reduced-Price Meal Benefits

The following criteria will be used to determine a child's eligibility for free or reduced-price meal benefits:

### Income

1. Household income that is at or below the income eligibility levels

### Categorical or Automatic Eligibility

2. Household receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

### **Program Participant**

- 3. Child's status as a foster child, homeless, runaway, migrant, or displaced by a declared disaster
- 4. Child's enrollment in Head Start or Even Start

### **Income Eligibility**

For those households that qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on income, an adult in the household must fill out free and reduced-price meal application and return it to *Kim Wulf, Meal Benefits Coordinator located in the Cowan Education Center 4133 Warpath Santa Fe, TX. 77510 or email kim.wulf@sfisd.org*. Those individuals filling out the application will need to provide the following information:

- 1. Names of all household members
- 2. Amount, frequency, and source of current income for each household member
- 3. Last 4 digits of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application or, if the adult does not have a social security number, check the box for "No Social Security number"
- 4. Signature of an adult household member attesting that the information provided is correct

### Categorical or Program Eligibility

Santa Fe ISD is working with local agencies to identify all children who are categorically and program eligible. Santa Fe ISD will notify the households of these children that they do not need to complete an application. Any household that does not receive a letter and feels it should have should contact Kim Wulf, Meal Benefits Coordinator, at 409-925-9070 or kim.wulf@sfisd.org.

Any household that wishes to decline benefits should contact Kim Wulf, Meal Benefits Coordinator, at 409-925-9070 or kim.wulf@sfisd.org.

Applications may be submitted anytime during the school year. The information households provide on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility. Applications may also be verified by the school officials at any time during the school year.

### **Determining Eligibility**

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, Kim Wulf, Meal Benefits Coordinator will review applications and determine eligibility. Households or guardians dissatisfied with the Reviewing Official's eligibility determination may wish to discuss the decision with the Reviewing Official on an informal basis. Households wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to Dr. Leigh Wall, Superintendent of Schools, 4133 Warpath Santa Fe, TX. 77510 or call 409-925-9093.

### **Unexpected Circumstances**

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the attached current income eligibility guidelines.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\_filing\_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (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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### SANTA FE ISD FREE & REDUCED MEAL APPLICATION 2019/20

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. *Santa Fe ISD* offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.25; lunch costs (*PK-5*) \$2.25 (6-8) \$2.50. **Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals.** Reduced-price is .30 for breakfast and .40 for lunch. If you received a notification letter that a child is directly certified for free or reduced-price meals, do not complete an application. Let the school know if any children in the household attending school are not listed in the letter.

The questions and answers that follow and attached directions provide additional information on how to complete the application. Complete only <u>one application</u> for all the students in the household and return the completed application to *Meal Benefits Coordinator located in the Cowan Education Center*, 4133 Warpath Santa Fe, TX. 77510. If you have questions about applying for free or reduced-price meals, contact YUM! Nutrition Services at 409-925-9070 or kim.wulf@sfisd.org.

### 1. Who Can Get Free Meals?

- *Income*—Children can get free or reduced-price meals if a household's gross income is within the limits described in the *Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines*.
- Special Assistance Program Participants—Children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Food Distribution Program for Households on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), are eligible for free meals.
- Foster—Foster children who are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- Head Start or Early Head Start—Children participating in these programs are eligible for free meals.
- Homeless, Runaway, and Migrant—Children who meet
  the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant
  qualify for free meals. If you haven't been told about a
  child's status as homeless, runaway, or migrant or
  you feel a child may qualify for one of these
  programs, please call or email <u>Lois.Jones@sfisd.org</u>
  Homeless Coordinator at 409-925-9075.
- WIC Recipient Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals.
- What If I Disagree With the School's Decision About
  My Application? Talk to school officials. You also may
  ask for a hearing by calling or writing to Dr. Leigh
  Wall, Superintendent of Schools, PO Box 370 Santa Fe,
  TX. 77510 or call 409-925-90931.
- 3. My Child's Application Was Approved Last Year. Do I Need To Fill Out A New One? Yes. An application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. Send in a new application unless the school has told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.

- 4. If I Don't Qualify Now, May I Apply Later? Yes. Apply at any time during the school year. A child with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced-price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
- 5. What If My Income Is Not Always the Same? List the amount normally received. If a household member lost a job or had hours/wages reduced, use current income.
- 6. We Are in The Military. Do We Report Our Income Differently? Basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. Any cash value allowances for offbase housing, food, or clothing, or Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance payments count as income. If housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include the housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is excluded from income.
- 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.
- 8. Will Application Information Be Checked? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the reported household income.
- My Family Needs More Help. Are There Other Programs We Might Apply For? To find out how to apply for other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or 2-1-1.
- 10. Can I Apply Online? Yes! The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit <a href="www.schoolcafe.com">www.schoolcafe.com</a> or download the School Café app to your mobile device. Contact YUM! Nutrition Services at 409-925-9070 or kim.wulf@sfisd.org if you have questions about the online application.

If you have other questions or need help, call 409-925-9070. si necesita ayuda, por favor llame al teléfono: 409-925-9070. Sincerely,

Cherie Bowers, Director of YUM! Nutrition Services

### Directions for Applying For Free and Reduced-Price School Meals

Please use these instructions to complete the free or reduced-price school meals application. Submit one application per household, even if the children in the household attend more than one school in *Santa Fe ISD*. Please use a **pen** (not a pencil) when completing the application. The application must be filled out completely in order for the school to make a determination if the children in your household qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. **An incomplete application cannot be approved**. Please contact *YUM! Nutrition Services at 409-925-9070* with your questions.

### Step 1: List All Household Members Who Are Infants, Children, And Students Up to and Including Grade 12.

• List each child's name.

Print first name, middle initial, and last name for each child in the household in the spaces. If there are more children than lines, use the back of the application to record additional names.

<u>Include</u> all household members who are age 18 or under and are supported with the household's income including children who are not enrolled in the district. Children do NOT have to be related to anyone in the household to be a part of the household.

- Mark the box following the child's name to show if the child is a student in the Santa Fe Independent School District.
- Record the child's grade if the child is in school.
- <u>Check</u> the appropriate box if a child qualifies for free meals as participant in the foster care system, Head Start (including Early Head Start) or if a child meets the criteria for homeless, migrant, or runaway.

Checking Foster indicates that a foster care agency or court has placed the child in your home. If the application is being submitted for foster children only, complete Step 1, skip Step 2, and complete Step 3.

### Participation in a Categorical Program

If all children in the household are participants in one of the following programs—*Foster, Head Start, Homeless, Migrant, or Runaway,* skip Step 2 and complete Step 3.

SNAP, TANF, and FDPIR: Do any household members (including you) currently participate in one or more of the following assistance programs: SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR?

If a child or adult in the household participates in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance to Needed Families (TANF), <u>record</u> the Eligibility Determination Group (EDG) number in the space.

If a child or adult in the household is a participant in Food Distribution Program for Households on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), check the box to indicate participation. The Santa Fe ISD will contact you to obtain documentation of FDPIR participation.

If the students in the household are eligible based on SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR, skip Step 2 and complete Step 3.

### Step 2: Report Income for All Household Members.

Part A. Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of an Adult Household Member

 <u>Provide</u> the last four digits of the Social Security number (SSN) of an adult in the household or check the box for no SSN.

A social security number is not required to apply for these programs.

Part B. Income for All Adult Household Members (Including Yourself, But Not Children)

 <u>Record</u> the first and last name of each adult in the household in the space provided.

If there are more adults in the household than available spaces, use the back of the application. Children's income is reported in Part C.

Include all adults living in the household that share income and expenses, even if the adult is not related to anyone in the household and does not receive any income. Do <u>not</u> include adults that are not supported by the household's income and do not contribute income to the household.

Family Size	Annually	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$23,107	\$1,926	\$963	\$889	\$445
2	\$31,284	\$2,607	\$1,304	\$1,204	\$602
3	\$39,461	\$3,289	\$1,645	\$1,518	\$759
4	\$47,638	\$3,970	\$1,985	\$1,833	\$917
5	\$55,815	\$4,652	\$2,326	\$2,147	\$1,074
6	\$63,992	\$5,333	\$2,667	\$2,462	\$1,231
7	\$72,169	\$6,015	\$3,008	\$2,776	\$1,388
8	\$ 80,346	\$6,696	\$3,348	\$3,091	\$1,546
For each ac	lditional family r	nember add:			
	+ \$8,177	+ \$682	+ \$341	+ \$315	+ \$158

• Record the amount of income the adult receives under the type of income: Working Earnings; Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony; Pensions/ Retirement/Social Security/Supplemental Security Income (SSI); and All Other.

Report all amounts in gross income only and in whole dollars. Gross income is the total income received before taxes or deductions. Ensure that the income reported has not been reduced by the amounts deducted for taxes, insurance premiums, or any other purpose. The Adult Income Information Box provides additional information on the types of income that need to be reported. Foster children may be included as a member of the household or may be included on a separate application.

<u>Write</u>  $a \ \underline{0}$  in any field where there is no income to report. If you write  $\underline{0}$  or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. If local officials have known or available information that the household income was reported incorrectly, the application will be verified for cause.

- <u>Circle</u> how often each type of income is received (frequency).
  - W = Weekly
  - E = Every 2 Weeks
  - T = Twice per Month
  - M = Monthly
  - A = Annually

### Part C. Income for Children in the Household

 <u>Record</u> total income for each child in the household who receives regular income by how often income is received (frequency).

### Record adult income in Part B.

Record the income of each child who receives regular income under the frequency indicating how often the income is received.

The Child Income Information Box (on the right) provides additional information on the types of income that needs to be reported for children in the household.

### Part D. Total Household Members

 <u>Record</u> the total number of children and adults in the household in the appropriate box.

This number MUST be equal to the number of household members listed in Step 1 and Step 2. It is very important to list all household members as the size of the household determines the household eligibility.

### Step 3: Provide Contact Information and Adult Signature.

- Read the certification statement.
- Write your current address and contact information in the space provided. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.

If you have no permanent address, this does not make your children ineligible for free or reduced-price school meals.

• <u>Print</u> the name of the adult signing the form, <u>sign</u> the form, and <u>record</u> today's date in the appropriate spaces.

All applications must be signed by an adult household member. By signing the application, the household member is promising that all information has been truthfully and completely reported. Before completing this section, please read the privacy and civil rights statements on the back of the application.

### Step 4: Return the Application.

• <u>Return</u> the application to P.O. Box 370 Santa Fe, TX. 77510 or to YUM! Nutrition Services located in the Cowan Education Center at 4133 Warpath Santa Fe, TX. 77510 or return to your child's school café manager.

### Adult Income Information Box

### Earnings from Work

General Types of Income

- Salary, wages, cash bonuses
- Strike benefits

### U.S. Military

- Allowances for off-base housing, food, and clothing
- Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA, or privatized housing allowances)

### Self-Employed Worker

 Net income from self-employment (farm or business)—calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of the business from its gross receipts or revenue.

### Public Assistance/ Child Support/Alimony

(Do not report the value of any cash value public assistance benefits NOT listed on the chart.)

- Alimony payments
- · Cash assistance from State or local government
- Child support payments from court-ordered child support or alimony decree should be reported here.
   Informal but regular payments should be reported as other income in the next part.
- · Unemployment benefits
- Worker's compensation

### Pensions/Retirement/ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

- Annuities
- · Income from trusts or estates
- · Private Pensions or disability
- Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veteran's benefits

### All Other Income

- Earned interest
- Investment income
- · Regular cash payments from outside household
- · Rental income

### **Child Income Information Box**

### Earnings from work

For Example: A child has a job where she or he earns a salary or wages.

### Social Security, Disability Payments

For Example: A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits.

### Social Security, Survivor's Benefits

For Example: A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives social security benefits.

### Income from any other source

For Example: A child receives income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust.

### June 26, 2019

Santa Fe Independent School District, 2019-2020 Standard (Multi-Child) Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil). Apply online at www.schoolcafe.com

This Box for School Use Only

Date Withdrawn:

Definition of Household Member: anyone who is living with you and shares income and expenses, even if not related. Children in Foster care; children who meet the definition of Homeless, Migrant, or Runaway or who participate in Head Start are eligible for free meals. Please read the directions for more information Step 1:

A. LIST ALL Household ME	A. LIST ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS WHO Are INTAINS, CHILDREN, and Students up to and Including Grade 12. If more spaces are needed, use the Additional Names section on the back.	and Including Grade 1	<ol><li>It more spaces</li></ol>	are needed,	use the Additional	Names sec	tion on the ba	ack.		
List each child's name.		Student Attends (	Student Attends School in District?		Ontional: Strident		Che	Check all that apply.	×	
First Name	MI Last Name	Yes	No	Grade	ID Number	Foster	Head Start	Homeless	Migrant	
<b>,</b>										
2.								E	E	
33										
4.										
B. Participation in a Categorical Program	Jorical Program									

- If every child listed in Step 1 is a participant any one of the following programs—Foster, Head Start, Homeless, Migrant, or Runaway, skip Step 2 and complete Step 3.
- SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR: Do any Household Members (including you) currently participate in SNAP, TANF, and/or FDPIR?

skip Step 2, and complete Step 3. If No, complete Steps 2 and 3. If Yes to SNAP/TANF > Write the Eligibility Determination Group (EDG) number in this space. If Yes to FDPIR, check this box □, skip Step 2, and complete Step 3.

# Please read the directions for more information for the following questions.

Report Income for ALL Household Members (Skip this step if you entered an EDG number or checked the box to indicate participation in FDPIR in Step 1).

☐ Check if no SSN A. Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of an Adult Household Member: XXX-XX

B. Income for Adult Household Members (Include Yourself, But Not Children. If more spaces are needed, use the Additional Names section on the back.)

List all Household Members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. For each Household Member listed, if they do receive income, report total income (without deductions) for each source in whole dollars only. Indicate the frequency of income: W=Weekly, E=Every 2 Weeks, T=Twice per Month, M=Monthly, A=Annually. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0.' If you enter '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising)

(Do not include the income of children in this section. The income of children ages in 2D.)				Public Assistance/ Child		Security/Supplemental			
	of children in this dren goes in 2D.)	Work Earnings (Enter Amount)	Frequency (Circle One)	Support/ Alimony (Enter Amount)	Frequency (Circle One)	Security Income (Enter Amount)	Frequency (Circle One)	All Other (Enter Amount)	Frequency (Circle One)
·	↔		W-E-T-M-A	↔	W-E-T-M-A	6	Š	49	W-E-T-M-A
2.	69		W-E-T-M-A	↔	W-E-T-M-A	8	W-E-T-M-A	€9	W-E-T-M-A
છ	↔		W-E-T-M-A	↔	W-E-T-M-A	ь	W-E-T-M-A	€9	W-E-T-M-A

C. Income for Children in the Household (Do not include adult income. Do report any type of regular income for children in the household. If more spaces are needed, use the Additional Names section on the back.) Monthly Twice per Month Every 2 Weeks Weekly Record total income by frequency for each child who receives regular income listed in Step 1.

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## D. Total Household Members (Count all children & adults living in the household)

### Please read the directions for more information on signing this form. Step 3:

Provide Contact Information and Adult Signature. Return this application to P.O. Box 370 Santa Fe, TX. 77510 kim.wulf@sfisd.org, and/or return to your child's school.

I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal funds, and that school officials may verify (check) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws.

Street Address/Apt #	City	State Zip	Day	Daytime Phone and Email (Optional)
Printed Name of Adult Household Member Signing the Form		Signature of Adult Household	ld Member Signing the Form	m Todav's Date

### Income Eligibility Guidelines for Determining Free and Reduced Price Benefits

Effective from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

Family	Annı	ually	Mor	thly	Twice pe	r Month	Every Tw	o Weeks	Wee	ekly
Size	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced
1	\$16,237	\$23,107	\$1,354	\$1,926	\$677	\$963	\$625	\$889	\$313	\$445
2	\$21,983	\$31,284	\$1,832	\$2,607	\$916	\$1,304	\$846	\$1,204	\$423	\$602
3	\$27,729	\$39,461	\$2,311	\$3,289	\$1,156	\$1,645	\$1,067	\$1,518	\$534	\$759
4	\$33,475	\$47,638	\$2,790	\$3,970	\$1,395	\$1,985	\$1,288	\$1,833	\$644	\$917
5	\$39,221	\$55,815	\$3,269	\$4,652	\$1,635	\$2,326	\$1,509	\$2,147	\$755	\$1,074
6	\$44,967	\$63,992	\$3,748	\$5,333	\$1,874	\$2,667	\$1,730	\$2,462	\$865	\$1,231
7	\$50,713	\$72,169	\$4,227	\$6,015	\$2,114	\$3,008	\$1,951	\$2,776	\$976	\$1,388
8	\$56,459	\$ 80,346	\$4,705	\$6,696	\$2,353	\$3,348	\$2,172	\$3,091	\$1,086	\$1,546
9	\$62,205	\$88,523	\$5,184	\$7,378	\$2,593	\$3,689	\$2,393	\$3,406	\$1,197	\$1,704
10	\$67,951	\$96,700	\$5,663	\$8,060	\$2,833	\$4,030	\$2,614	\$3,721	\$1,308	\$1,862
11	\$73,697	\$104,877	\$6,142	\$8,742	\$3,073	\$4,371	\$2,835	\$4,036	\$1,419	\$2,020
12	\$79,443	\$113,054	\$6,621	\$9,424	\$3,313	\$4,712	\$3,056	\$4,351	\$1,530	\$2,178
For each a	dditional fami	ly member add								
	+ \$5,746	+ \$8,177	+ \$479	+ \$682	+ \$240	+ \$341	+ \$221	+ \$315	+ \$111	+ \$158