

Silver Falls School District 4J

Code: **EFAC-AR**
Adopted: 4/10/90-E
Readopted: 9/8/97

Child Nutrition - Public Notification

SAMPLE - DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE

The Silver Falls School District today announced the policy for free and reduced-price meals for students in schools participating in the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs.

Free and reduced-price meals are available for students unable to pay the full price for meals. Eligibility is determined by the household size and income. Qualifying students receive the meals without charge or at a reduced price of no more than 40 cents for lunch and 30 cents for breakfast.

Thirty-three percent of the 211,000 students eating school lunches receive them for free, while seven percent pay reduced prices.

Students from households whose income is at or below these levels are eligible for free or reduced-price meals:

Effective July 1, 1997 - June 30, 1998

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Week</u>
1	14,597	1,217	281
2	19,629	1,636	378
3	24,661	2,056	475
4	29,693	2,475	572
5	34,725	2,894	668
6	39,757	3,314	765
7	44,789	3,733	862
8	49,821	4,152	959
For each additional family member ADD	+5,032	+420	+97

Application forms are sent to all homes with a letter to parents. To apply for free or reduced-price meals, households should fill out the application and return it to the school. Additional copies are available at the school. Information on the application will be used to determine eligibility and may be verified any time during the school year by school or program officials.

For school officials to determine eligibility, households receiving food stamps or ADC benefits must list the student's name, their food stamp or ADC case number and the signature of an adult household member. Households not receiving food stamps or ADC benefits must list names of all household members; the

amount of money each person makes in the home and where the money comes from; the social security number of a person who makes the most money or the adult person who signs the application, or write "none" if no social security number; and the signature of an adult (21 years of age or older) member certifying that the information is correct.

Applications may be submitted any time during the year.

An official at the school will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents dissatisfied with the ruling may discuss the decision with the official. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal may make a written or oral request to the hearings officer (contact the school for the name, address and phone number of the officer) for a hearing on the decision.

Households that receive free or reduced-price benefits must report to the school when their income increases more than \$50 per month or \$600 per year, when there are decreases in household size or when they no longer receive food stamps, ADC or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) benefits. If a member becomes unemployed or if the size increases, the household should contact the school to see if it is eligible for benefits.

In some cases, foster children are eligible for meal benefits regardless of household income.

In the operation of the programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, no student will be discriminated against because of race, color, sex, national origin, age or disability. If a household believes it has been discriminated against, it should write to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.