

52 Institute Road Burlington, Vermont 05408 802.864.8416

August 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. The Burlington School Food Project offers healthy meals every school day. This letter is for students at BHS, Champlain, Edmunds Elementary and Middle Schools. Breakfast is free for all students; lunch at BHS is \$3.00; Champlain and Edmunds Schools are \$2.25. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price meals are served at no charge to families. This packet includes an application for free or reduced price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

- 1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?
 - a. All children in households receiving benefits from 3SquaresVT or Reach-Up are eligible for free meals.
 - b. Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
 - c. Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
 - d. Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
 - e. Children may receive free or reduced price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

FEDERAL INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES For School Year 2017 -2018					
Household Size	Yearly	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	22,311	1,860	930	859	430
2	30,044	2,504	1,252	1,156	578
3	37,777	3,149	1,575	1,453	727
4	45,510	3,793	1,897	1,751	876
5	53,243	4,437	2,219	2,048	1,024
6	60,976	5,082	2,541	2,346	1,173
7	68,709	5,726	2,863	2,643	1,322
8	76,442	6,371	3,186	2,941	1,471
or each additional ousehold member add	7,733	645	323	298	149

- 2. 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 Mia Marinovich 802.864.8456 or mmarinov@bsdvt.org
- 3. 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: Pat Matton at the above address.
- 4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? No, but please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions.

 If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact **Pat Matton at 802.864.8416** or pmatton@bsdvt.org immediately.

- 5. 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. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not send in a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your child(ren) is (are) eligible for free meals, your child(ren) will be charged the full price for meals.
- 6. 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; a meal application is needed. Please send in an application.
- 7. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
- 8. 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 may become eligible for free and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
- 9. 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: **Doug Davis, 802-864-8416 or ddavis@bsdvt.org**
- 10. 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.
- 11. 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.
- 12. 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 zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.
- 13. 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, or receive Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance payments, 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. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.
- 14. WHAT IF THERE ISN'T 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. MY FAMILY NEFDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for **3SquaresVT** or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call **1-800-479-6151**.

If you have other questions or need help, call me at 802-864-8416.

Sincerely,

Pat mallow

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.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

2017 - 2018 Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals - VT Agency of Education

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Sources of Income for Children			
Sources of Child Income	Example(s)		
- Earnings from work	- A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages		
 Social Security Disability Payments Survivor's Benefits 	A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security 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			
- Salary, wages, cash bonuses - Net income from self- employment (farm or business)	Unemployment benefits Worker's compensation Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Cash assistance from State	 Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits) Private pensions or disability benefits 			
If you are in the U.S. Military: - Basicpay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay,	or local government - Alimony payments - Child support payments - Veteran's benefits	Regular income from trusts or estates Annuities Investment income Earned interest			
FSSA or privatized housing allowances) - Allowances for off-base housing, food and clothing	- Strike benefits	Rental income Regular cash payments from outside household			

OPTIONAL | Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities

We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.

Ethnicity (check one):	Hispanic or Latino Not Hispanic or Latino
Race (check one or more):	American Indian or Alaskan Native Asian Black or African American
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander White

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Household Size	Yearly	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly	The chart to the left shows the
1	22,311	1,860	930	859	430	reduced price
2	30,044	2,504	1,252	1,156	578	guidelines. Your children
3	37,777	3,149	1,575	1,453	727	may qualify for
4	45,510	3,793	1,897	1,751	876	free OR for reduced price school meals if your household income falls within the limits on this chart.
5	53,243	4,437	2,219	2,048	1,024	
6	60,976	5,082	2,541	2,346	1,173	
7	68,709	5,726	2,863	2,643	1,322	
8	76,442	6,371	3,186	2,941	1,471	
For each additional household member add 4,180	7,733	645	323	298	149	

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (3SquaresVT), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Reach-Up) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We MAY share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

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.