

Culver City Unified School District serves healthy Breakfast and Lunch every school day. Breakfast and Lunch provide good nutrition that is a vital component of the learning process. Your child(ren) may qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Reduced-price meals are \$0.25 for Breakfast and \$0.40 for Lunch. Below are questions and answers that can help you to determine if you should apply for meal benefits.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Do I need to fill out an application for EACH child?

No. Use one Free and Reduced-price Meal Application for all children in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete. Please be sure to provide all required information. Return the completed application to your child's school or the Food Service office. Do not forget to provide case numbers where required for EACH child.

2. Do I need to fill out a separate application for a Foster Child?

No. Use one Free and Reduced-price Meal Application for all children in your household including any and all Foster Children.

3. Who can get free meals?

Children in households receiving Cal Fresh (formerly known as Food Stamps), Cal Works, Kin GAP or FDPIR benefits and most foster children can be eligible to receive free meals regardless of income. Also, children in households whose income falls within the free limits of the Federal Income Guidelines.

4. Who can get reduced-price meals?

Your child(ren) can qualify to receive reduced-price meal benefits if your household income is within the reduced-price limits of the Federal Income Guidelines.

5. If I take care of my niece, nephew, or other minor, does he/she qualify as a foster child?

No. A foster child is a child who is the legal responsibility of the welfare agency or is a ward of the court.

6. Should I fill out this application if I got a letter for the 2012-2013 school year saying my child(ren) is approved for free meals?

No. If you received a letter you may have been categorically approved. Please contact the Food Service office at (310) 842-4200 ext 3310 if you have any questions. Please be sure to keep the letter advising you of your qualification status for your records. Your benefits are good for the entire 2012-2013 school year.

7. I receive WIC benefits, can my child(ren) eat for free?

Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-priced meals. Please fill out an application to apply for benefits.

8. Will the information I give be verified?

Yes, your application may be selected for verification.

9. If I don't qualify now, may I apply at a later date?

Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start getting Cal Works or other benefits. If you lose your job, your child(ren) may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please fill out an application to see if your child(ren) qualify for benefits.

10. What if I disagree with the decision about my application?

If you disagree with the decision please call the Food Service office at (310) 842-4200 ext 3310. You may also request a hearing by calling or writing: Julie Garcia, Director of Food Service, 4401 Elenda Street, Culver City, CA 90230. Telephone: (310) 842-4200 ext 3304.

11. May I apply if someone in my household is not a United States citizen?

Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

12. Who should I include as member of my household?

You must include all people living in your household, relate or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends) who share living expenses. You must include yourself and children who live with you, regardless of age.

13. What if my income is not always the same?

List the amount that you normally earn. For example, if you normally earn \$1,000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only earned \$900, write down that you earn \$1,000 per month. If you normally receive overtime, include it, but do not include overtime if you only receive it occasionally.

14. 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.

15. Will my child(ren) have to go through a different line if they receive free or reduced-price meals?

No. All children are treated equally and have the same meal choices.

16. What if I make a mistake on the application, can I use correction tape & write over it?

No. Applications with correction tape will not be accepted and will be returned.

When filling out a paper application, please use BLUE or BLACK ink, no pencils or red ink please. If you have any questions or need help, please call (310) 842-4200 ext. 3310 for assistance.