

PUBLIC RELEASE

The Alexander City Board of Education today announced its policy for free and reduced-price meals for children served in schools under the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program. Local school officials have adopted the following household size and income criteria for determining eligibility:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Alexander City Schools** offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs **\$1.25 Grades PreK-6 and \$1.75 Grade 7-12**; lunch costs **\$2.15 Grades PreK-6 and \$2.50 Grades 7-12**. **Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals.** Reduced price is **\$0.30** for breakfast and **\$0.40** for lunch. All packets include an application for free or reduced price meal benefits, a set of detailed instructions and answers to frequently asked questions.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES 2018-2019

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ELIGIBILITY SCALE FOR FREE MEALS/MILK				HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ELIGIBILITY SCALE FOR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS/MILK			
	PER YEAR	PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	PER WEEK		PER YEAR	PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	PER WEEK
1	15,782	1,316	607	304	1	22,459	1,872	864	432
2	21,398	1,784	823	412	2	30,451	2,538	1,172	586
3	27,014	2,252	1,039	520	3	38,443	3,204	1,479	740
4	32,630	2,720	1,255	628	4	46,435	3,870	1,786	893
5	38,246	3,188	1,471	736	5	54,427	4,536	2,094	1,047
6	43,862	3,656	1,687	844	6	62,419	5,202	2,401	1,201
7	49,478	4,124	1,903	952	7	70,411	5,868	2,709	1,355
8	55,094	4,592	2,119	1,060	8	78,403	6,534	3,016	1,508
FOR EACH ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBER					FOR EACH ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBER				
ADD	+5,616	+468	+216	+108	ADD	+7,992	+666	+308	+154

PARENTS: If your total current household income is within the limits listed above, your children may be eligible for either free or reduced-price meals.

They may apply by completing the application forms sent home with a letter to parents. Additional copies are available at the principal's office in each school. The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used only for the purpose of determining eligibility. The information on the application may be verified at any time during the program year. Applications may be submitted any time during the school year.

In accordance with program regulations school officials will be verifying the income of some households at some time during the school year. Selected households will be requested to provide income documentation in order to continue receiving free and reduced-price meals.

The last four digits of the social security number must be provided for the primary wage earner or household member who signs the application. Aliens ineligible for social security numbers should indicate their status on the application.

In certain cases, foster children are also eligible for these benefits. If a family has such children living with them and wishes to apply for such meals for them, they should contact the school.

In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age or disability.

Under the provision of the free and reduced-price meal policy, School Office Designees will review the applications and determine eligibility.

If a parent is dissatisfied with the ruling or the official, he may wish to discuss it in more detail with that official. If a parent wishes to review the ruling further after discussing it with the school, he has a right to a fair hearing. This can be done by making a request either orally or in writing to Rhonda Blythe, CNP Director, whose address is 375 Lee Street, Alexander City, AL 35010. Hearing procedures are outlined in the free and reduced-price meal policy.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size changes, the household should contact the school to file a new application. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for free or reduced-price meals if the household income falls at or below the level shown above.

A complete copy of the Policy is on file in each school and in the office of the Superintendent of Alexander City Schools where it may be reviewed by any interested party.

All questions on the free and reduced-price application must be completed. Failure to include information on household members, income or SNAP (Food Stamp) case number, information on social security, and the signature of an adult household member will result in the denial of benefits.

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information requested in order to verify your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals. If you do not provide the information or provide incomplete information, your children may no longer receive free or reduced price meals. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Privacy Act, disclosure of your Social Security number is not required. We do not need and are not requesting any Social Security numbers that may appear on documents you submit.

Non-Discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

"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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