



Free and Reduced Price School Meals – Information Letter to Households

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Weld County School District Re-3J** offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs **Elementary & Middle School \$0, High School \$2.20** and lunch costs **Elementary \$2.70, Middle School and High School \$2.95**. **Your children may qualify for free or reduced price school meals.** Students in all grades that qualify for reduced price meals will receive breakfast at no charge. Students in preschool through 5th grade who qualify for reduced meals will also receive lunch at no charge. Reduced price lunch is \$.40 for students grades 6-12.

This packet includes an application for free or reduced price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. You can also find applications **at each school office** or online at [www.re3j.com](http://www.re3j.com). 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 the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF/Colorado Works – Basic Cash Assistance or State Diversion), 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. Foster children may be added as a household member of the foster family if the foster family chooses to apply. Including foster children as household members may help other children qualify for benefits. If the foster family is not eligible, it does not prevent a foster child from receiving benefits.**
- c. Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- d. 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 ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 2017 – 2018			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$22,311	\$1,860	\$430
2	\$30,044	\$2,504	\$578
3	\$37,777	\$3,149	\$727
4	\$45,510	\$3,793	\$876
5	\$53,243	\$4,437	\$1,024
6	\$60,976	\$5,082	\$1,173
7	\$68,709	\$5,726	\$1,322
8	\$76,442	\$6,371	\$1,471
Each additional person:	\$7,733	\$645	\$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 have not already been notified that your children will receive free meals, please call or e-mail **Jenny Wakeman, Director of Support Services, 303-536-2000 or [jennywakeman@re3j.com](mailto:jennywakeman@re3j.com)**
- 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: Weld Re-3J, Attn: Connie Worth, PO Box 269, Keenesburg, CO 80643 or [connieworth@re3j.com](mailto:connieworth@re3j.com)
- 4. **MY CHILD’S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? Yes.** Your child’s application is only valid for that school year and for the first 30 days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless the school notified you that your child is eligible for the new school year.

5. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? You may be selected to provide written proof of the household income you report on the application.
6. 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.
7. 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: **Lisa Clark, Director of Finance, PO Box 269, Keenesburg, CO 80634, 303-536-2000 or [lisaclark@re3j.com](mailto:lisaclark@re3j.com)**
8. 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.
9. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you normally 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. The last four digits of the Social Security Number of an adult household member (or an indication of "none") is required to process a complete income application.
10. 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. **The last four digits of the Social Security Number of an adult household member (or an indication of "none") is required to process a complete income application.**
11. 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.
12. 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. Colorado PEAK is an online service to screen and apply for medical, food and cash assistance programs. It can be accessed at <http://coloradopeak.force.com/>.

If you have other questions or need help, contact **Connie Worth, 303-536-2023, [connieworth@re3j.com](mailto:connieworth@re3j.com)**

Sincerely,  
*Lisa Clark*

**Non-discrimination Statement:**

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, audiotope, 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](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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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