FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **De Smet School District** offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs [\$1.35] for preK-5 students and [\$1.50] for students in grades 6-12; **and lunch costs** [\$3.00] for preK-5 students and [\$3.25] for students in grades 6-12; **your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals.** Reduced-price is **\$.30** for breakfast, and **\$.40** for lunch. 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?
 - All children in households receiving benefits from SNAP, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or TANF are eligible for free meals
 - Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals
 - Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals
 - Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals
 - 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 2022-2023					
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly		
1	\$25,142	\$2,096	\$484		
2	\$33,874	\$2,823	\$652		
3	\$42,606	\$3,551	\$820		
4	\$51,338	\$4,279	\$988		
5	\$60,070	\$5,006	\$1,156		
6	\$68,802	\$5,734	\$1,324		
7	\$77,534	\$6,462	\$1,492		
8	\$86,266	\$7,189	\$1,659		
Each additional person:	\$8,732	\$728	\$168		

- 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 or e-mail Abi Van Regenmorter, Superintendent, 605-854-3963 or abi.vanregenmorter@k12.sd.us.
- 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: [Abi Van Regenmorter, Superintendent, 605-854-3963, 405 Ingalls Ave, De Smet, SD 57231 or abi.vanregenmorter@k12.sd.us.
- 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 Abi Van Regenmorter, Superintendent, 605-854-3963, 405 Ingalls Ave, De Smet, SD 57231 or abi.vanregenmorter@k12.sd.us right away so those children get benefits, too.

- 5. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? <u>YES</u>. 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.
- 6. I GET WIC OR MEDICAID. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC or Medicaid <u>may</u> be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. WIC and Medicaid are <u>not</u> automatic qualifications. 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 by calling Abi Van Regenmorter, Superintendent, 605-854-3963 or abi.vanregenmorter@k12.sd.us. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Shane Roth, 510 2nd Street, De Smet, SD 57231 or 605-854-2399.
- 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 MY INCOME CHANGES DURING THE YEAR OR MY SNAP, TANF, OR FDPIR BENEFITS CHANGE? If your application for free or reduced-price benefits was properly approved, you will remain eligible for those benefits for a certain period of time. You may visit with a school/center official to get the exact date the meal benefits will expire.
- 13. 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. When this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will <u>also</u> be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.
- 14. 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, 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. Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA) payments and any additional combat pay resulting from deployment are also excluded from income.
 - IS COMBAT PAY COUNTED AS INCOME? No, if the combat pay is received in addition to the basic pay because of deployment and it was not received before deployment, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.
- 15. WILL YOU TELL ANYONE ELSE ABOUT THE INFORMATION ON MY FORM? We will use the information on your form to decide if your children should get free or reduced-price meals. We may inform officials associated with other child nutrition, health, and education programs of the information on your form to determine benefits for those programs or for funding and/or evaluation purposes.
- 16. 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.
- 17. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? Contact your local Department of Social Services office to find out how to apply for SNAP or other assistance benefits.

18. WHAT IF MY CHILD NEEDS SPECIAL FOODS? The school/center will make substitutions to the regular school meal for children whose disability restricts their diet when a physician certifies that disability. If the parent requests changes, the staff <u>may</u> choose to make substitutions for individual children who do not have a disability, but who cannot drink regular milk due to medical or other special dietary needs that are supported by a certified medical authority. These requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Please call the school/center food service department for further information to request special meals or milk.

If you have other questions or need help, call 605-854-3963.

Sincerely,

Abi Van Regenmorter Superintendent

HOW TO APPLY FOR FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Please use these instructions to help you fill out the application for free or reduced-price school meals. You only need to submit **one** application per household, even if your children attend more than one school in De Smet School District. The application must be filled out completely to certify your children for free or reduced-price school meals. Please follow these instructions in order! Each step of the instructions is the same as the steps on your application. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please contact **Abi Van Regenmorter**, **Superintendent at 605-854-3963 or** abi.vanregenmorter@k12.sd.us.

PLEASE USE A PEN (NOT A PENCIL) WHEN FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION AND DO YOUR BEST TO PRINT CLEARLY.

STEP 1: LIST ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS WHO ARE INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND STUDENTS UP TO AND INCLUDING GRADE 12.

Tell us how many infants, children, and school students live in your household. They do NOT have to be related to you to be a part of your household.

Who should I list here? When filling out this section, please include ALL members in your household who are:

- Children age 18 or under AND are supported with the household's income;
- In you provide care under a foster arrangement, or qualify as homeless, migrant, or runaway youth;
- Students attending De Smet School District, regardless of age
- A) List each child's name. For each child, print their first name, middle initial and last name. Use one line of the application for each child. If there are more children present than lines on the application, attach a second piece of paper with all required information for the additional children.
- B) How old is the child? Is the child a student? What school/center does the child attend? Fill in the information for the center or school to use.
- C) Do you have any foster children? If any children listed are foster children, mark the "Foster Child" box next to the child's name. Foster children who live with you may count as members of your household and should be listed on your application. If you are only applying for foster children, after completing STEP 1, skip to STEP 4 of the application and these instructions. If you are applying for both foster and non-foster children, go to step 3.
- D) Are any children homeless, migrant, or runaway? If you believe any child listed in this section may meet this description, please mark the "Homeless, Migrant, and Runaway" box next to the child's name and complete all steps of the application.

STEP 2: DO ANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS (INCLUDING YOU) CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN SNAP, TANF, OR FDPIR?

If anyone in your household participates in the assistance programs listed below, your children are <u>eligible</u> for free school meals:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- A) IF NO ONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATES IN ANY OF THE ABOVE LISTED PROGRAMS:
 - Leave STEP 2 blank and go to STEP 3
- B) IF ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATES IN ANY OF THE ABOVE LISTED PROGRAMS:
 - Write a case number for SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR. You only need to write one case number. If you participate in one of
 these programs and do not know your case number, contact your local assistance office. You <u>must</u> provide a case
 number on your application
 - Go to STEP 4

STEP 3: REPORT INCOME FOR ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS.

A) Use the charts titled "Sources of Income for Adults" and "Sources of Income for Children," printed on the back side of the application form to determine if your household has income to report.

REPORT INCOME EARNED BY CHILDREN

- Report all income earned or received by children. Report the combined gross income for ALL children listed in STEP 1 in your household in the box marked "Child Income." Only count foster children's income if you are applying for them together with the rest of your household
- What is Child Income? Child income is money received from outside your household that is paid DIRECTLY to your children. Many
 households do not have any child income

REPORT INCOME EARNED BY ADULTS

Who should I list here?

- When filling out this section, please include ALL adult members in your household who are living with you and share income and expenses, even if they are not related and even if they do not receive income of their own
- Do NOT include:
 - o People who live with you but are not supported by your household's income AND do not contribute income to your household
 - Infants, children and students already listed in STEP 1
- a) List adult household members' names. Print the name of each household member in the boxes marked "Names of Adult Household Members (First and Last)." Do not list any household members you listed in STEP 1. If a child listed in STEP 1 has income, follow the instructions in STEP 3, part A.
- b) Report earnings from work. Report all income from work in the "Earnings from Work" field on the application. This is usually the money received from working at jobs. If you are a self-employed business or farm owner, you will report your net income.

What if I am self-employed? Report income from

that work as a net amount. This is calculated by

subtracting the total operating expenses of your

business from its gross receipts or revenue.

c) Report income from public assistance/child support/alimony. Report all income that applies in the "Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony" field on the application. Do not report the cash value of any public assistance benefits NOT listed on the chart. If income is received from child support or alimony, only report court-ordered payments. Informal but regular payments should be reported as "other" income in the next part.

d) Report income from pensions/retirement/all other income. Report all income that applies in the "Pensions/Retirement/ All Other Income" field on the

application.

- e) Report total household size. Enter the total number of household members in the field "Total Household Members (Children and Adults)." This number MUST be equal to the number of household members listed in STEP 1 and STEP 3. If there are any members of your household that you have not listed on the application, go back and add them. It is very important to list all household members, as the size of your household affects your eligibility for free and reduced-price meals.
- f) Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number. An adult household member must enter the last four digits of their Social Security Number in the space provided. You are eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social Security Number. If no adult household members have a Social Security Number, leave this space blank and mark the box to the right labeled "Check if no SSN."
- B) Report all amounts in **GROSS INCOME ONLY**. Report all income in whole dollars. Do not include cents.
 - Gross income is the total income received before taxes
 - Many people think of income as the amount they "take home" and not the total, "gross" amount. Make sure that the
 income you report on this application has NOT been reduced to pay for taxes, insurance premiums, or any other
 amounts taken from your pay.
- C) Write a "0" in any fields where there is no income to report. Any income fields left empty or blank will also be counted as a zero. If you write '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. If local officials suspect that your household income was reported incorrectly, your application will be investigated.
- D) Mark how often each type of income is received using the check boxes to the right of each field.

What if I am self-employed?

If you are self-employed, report income from that work as a **net** amount. This is calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of your business from its gross receipts or revenue.

E) To figure monthly income for self-employment/farming: The information to figure income from private business operation is to be taken from your U.S. Individual Income Tax Return – Schedule 1. Write the numbers from the corresponding tax form lines in the box below. Write it on the free/reduced-price meal application in the earnings column as annually. If it is a negative number, write it as zero on the application. All other income from the tax form must be listed separately for the person who earned it. Net loss carryover cannot be used to decrease the household income.

Line 1 of the IRS Form 1040 cannot be used to report income. Income from wages or salaries must be reported on the free/reduced price meal application for the most recent month by family member and frequency.

Line 7b (total income) and Line 8b (adjusted gross income) of the IRS Form 1040 cannot be used for the purpose of applying for free and reduced-price meals.

The line items below are used to determine allowable self-employment income. Refer to the US Individual Income Tax Return Form 1040 – Schedule 1 under Part I, Additional Income section.

Line 3, Business Income (or loss)	\$	NOTE:	
Line 4, Other Gains (or losses)	\$	If any members of the household have income from wages or salary,	
Line 5, Rental Real Estate, etc.	\$	the gross income from last month must be reported on the application form.	
Line 6, Farm Income (or loss)	\$	This attachment is used only to	
Line 8, Other Income	\$	report income from self- employment and/or farming.	
TOTAL OF ABOVE LINES:	\$		
	Equals annual self-employment income**		

If the TOTAL OF THE ABOVE LINES is a negative number, it must be changed to zero before it is transferred to the free/reduced price meal application

- F) Report total household size. Enter the total number of household members in the field "Total Household Members (Children and Adults)." This number MUST be equal to the number of household members listed in STEP 1 and STEP 3. If there are any members of your household that you have not listed on the application, go back and add them. It is very important to list all household members, as the size of your household determines your income cutoff for free and reduced-price meals.
- G) Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number. The household's primary wage earner or another adult household member must enter the last four digits of their Social Security Number in the space provided. You are eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social Security Number. If no adult household members have a Social Security Number mark the box to the right labeled "Check if no SSN."

STEP 4: CONTACT INFORMATION AND ADULT SIGNATURE

All applications must be signed by an adult member of the household. **By signing the application, that household member is promising that all information has been truthfully and completely reported.** Before completing this section, please also make sure you have read the privacy and civil rights statements on the back of the application.

- A) **Provide your contact information.** Write your current address in the fields provided if this information is available. If you have no permanent address, this does not make your children ineligible for free or reduced-price school meals. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.
- B) Sign and print your name. Print your name in the box "Printed name of adult completing the form." Sign your name in the box "Signature of adult completing the form."
- C) Write Today's Date. In the space provided, write today's date in the box.
- D) Share children's Racial and Ethnic Identities (optional). On the back of the application, we ask you to share information about your children's race and ethnicity. This field is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals; however, if you do not select a race/ethnicity, one will be selected for you based on visual.

^{**}Report this amount on the free and reduced-price meal application in the category labeled "Farming/Pensions/Retirement/Other Income."

1 1	for Free and Reduced-Pice Scl on perhousehold. Please use a				□New Applicar	nt Previous Applicant
STEP 1: List ALL Hous	sehold Members who are infan	ts,children, andstudents up	to and including grade	2 (if more spaces are required for a	additional names, attach another	sheet of paper)
efinition of Household lember. "Anyone who is ving with you & shares come and expenses,	Child's Name		Age Write name of c	hild's school, or "not in school"		Ifastudent, Foster Mig write in the grade Child Ru
hildren in Foster care nd children who meet ne definition of omeless, Migrant, or unaway are eligible for ee meals. Read How to pply for Free and educed Price School leals for more formation.						Check all that apply
•	old Members (including you) curre	• • • •	· ·		PPIR? (NOT Medicaid)	Case Number:
nyou anower curto > con	protect Country. If 1207 Willo	(Do not complete STEP 3)	in coude number note than ge t	33121	Write only one case r	number in this spac
TEP 3: Report Income	for ALL Household Members	(Skip this step if you answe	ered 'Yes' to STEP2)			
re you unsure what come to include ere?	A. Child Income Sometimes children in the household all children listed in STEP 1 here.	earn or receive income. Please includ	e the TOTAL income received by	Child income Weekly Bi-V	How often?	How often? Meekly Bi-Weekly 2xMonth Monthly
lip the page and eview the charts titled sources of Income" for lore information.	B. All Adult Household Members List all Household Members not liste in whole dollars only. If they do not	d in STEP1 (including yourself) e	write '0'. If you enter '0' or lea	he. Foreach Household Member listed, i	f they do receive income, report tot	e to report.
he "Sources of acome for Children" nart will help you with	Name of Adult Household Members (First an	d Last) Earnings from Work Week		ublic Assistance/ hild Support/Alimony Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Month	Monthly Farmin g/ Pensions / Retirement/Other Income	How often? Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Month Monthly Annually
ne Child Income ection. The "Sources of		\$	\$ 0 0 0 \$	0 0 0	<u>O</u> \$	0 0 0 0 0
nart will help you with ne All Adult Household		\$	\$ S	0 0 0	\$	0 0 0 0
lembers section.	Total Household Members (Children and Adults)	Last Four Digits of Soc	cial Security Number (SSN) of or Other Adult Household Member	, X X X X X X	Check if no	SSN 🗆
STEP 4 : Contact inform	nation and adult signature.	,				
certify (promise) that a	all information on this application ck) the information. I am aware					
Street Address (if available)	Apt#	City	Sta	te Zip D	aytime Phone and Email (optional)	
oticet madiess (il available)	-					

Signature of adult completing the form

Today's date

Printed name of adult completing the form

INSTRUCTIONS: Sources of Income

Source	s of Income for Children	Sources of Income for Adults				
Sources of Child Income	Example(s)	Earnings from Work	Public Assistance / Alimony / Child Support	Pensions / Retirement / All Other Income		
Earnings from work	 A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages 	Salary, wages, cash bonuses	 Unemployment benefits Worker's compensation 	Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits)		
 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 	Net income from self- employment (farm or business) If you are in the U.S. Military:	Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Cash assistance from State or local government Alimony payments Child support payments	Private pensions or disability benefits Regular income from trusts or estates Annuities Investment income		
 Income from person outside the household 	 A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money 	 Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA or 		Earned interest Rental income		
Income from any other source	A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust	privatized housing allowances) • Allowances for off-base housing, food and clothing		Regular cash payments from outside household		

and the mean any earlier secured	private pension fund, annuity, o		nces for off-base housing, fo othing	Veteran's beStrike benef	enefits	household	ments nom outside
OPTIONAL: Children's Racial a	nd Ethnic						
We are required to ask for in community. Responding to							fully serving o
Ethnicity (check one):	•		ack or African America	ın □ Native Ha	awaiian or Othe	er Pacific Islande	r 🗆 White
Civil Rights: Information if you	have a complaint						
The Richard B. Russell National Scho not have to give the information, but if yomeals. You must include the last four digissigns the application. The last four digits behalf of a foster child or you list a Supp Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) P (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR id member signing the application does not determine if your child is eligible for free the lunch and breakfast programs. We N nutrition programs to help them evaluate program reviews, and law enforcement of a coordance with Federal civil rights lar and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, off administering USDA programs are prohil disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for funded by USD	ou do not, we cannot approve your child pits of the social security number of the of the social security number is not requemental Nutrition Assistance Program rogram or Food Distribution Program or entifier for your child or when you indicat have a social security number. We will our reduced-price meals, and for administry share your eligibility information with, fund, or determine benefits for their profficials to help them look into violations we and U.S. Department of Agriculture (Vices, and employees, and institutions pointed from discriminating based on race	for free or reduced price adult household member who uired when you apply on (SNAP), Temporary in Indian Reservations at that the adult household use your information to stration and enforcement of heducation, health, and ograms, auditors for of program rules. JSDA) civil rights regulations articipating in or , color, national origin, sex,	Rights 1400 Inde Washington, D.C fax: (202) 690-7442;	erican Sign Language, duals who are deaf, har service at (800) 877-8 er than English. Int of discrimination, cor w to File a Complaint, a I of the information requit your completed form of Agriculture stant Secretary for Civipendence Avenue, SW 20250-9410	etc.), should contact of hearing or have 1339. Additionally, purplete the USDA Prind at any USDA offuested in the form. To reletter to USDA b	ct the Agency (State of e speech disabilities re program information me rogram Discrimination fice, or write a letter ar To request a copy of to by:	or local) where they may contact USDA hay be made a Complaint Form, (AD ddressed to USDA
Do Not Fill Out: FOR SCHOOL	L / CENTER USE ONLY						
Do not convert if only one in	ncome frequency reported. A	nnual Income Conversion:	Weekly x 52, Bi - Wee	kly x 26, Twice a	Month x 24, Mo	onthly x 12.	
Total income:	How Often?	Household	ı size: Categorical Fr	ee Eligibility: (Sele	ect 1)	Income Eligib	ility: (Select 1)
	Weekly Bi- Weekly 2xMonth	Monthly Annual	Foster Homeless	Runaway Migrant	SNAP/TANF /FDPIR	Free Reduced	Denied
Determining Official's Signa	ture Date	Confirming Official's Sig	nature Date	e Verif	ing Official's Si	ignature	Date