

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Mitchell County Schools offer healthy meals every school day. Breakfast for K-12 costs \$1.00; lunch costs \$1.75 for K-5 and \$2.00 for 6-12th grade. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is \$.30 for breakfast and \$.40 for lunch.

1. **DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD?** No. Complete the application to apply for free or reduced price meals. 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: Heather Calhoun, 72 Ledger School Road, Bakersville, NC 28705 828-766-2240.
2. **WHO CAN GET FREE MEALS?** All children in households receiving benefits from Food and Nutrition Services, formerly known as The Food Stamp Program, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations or TANF/Work First can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household's gross income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines.
3. **CAN FOSTER CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?** Yes, foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are eligible for free meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for free meals regardless of income.
4. **CAN HOMELESS, RUNAWAY, AND MIGRANT CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?** Yes, children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant qualify for free meals. If you haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail Chad Calhoun at 828-766-2245 or chadcalhoun@mcsnc.org to see if they qualify.
5. **WHO CAN GET REDUCED PRICE MEALS?** Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Eligibility Income Chart, shown on this application.
6. **SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS?** Please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school at 828-766-2240 if you have questions.
7. **MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT ANOTHER 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.
8. **I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILD(REN) GET FREE MEALS?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please fill out an application.
9. **WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?** Yes and we may also ask you to send written proof.
10. **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.
11. **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: Dr. Rick Spurling, 72 Ledger School Road, Bakersville, NC 28705. 1-828-766-2220 or email rspurling@mcsnc.org.

12. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be U.S. citizens to qualify for free or reduced price meals.
13. WHO SHOULD I INCLUDE AS MEMBERS OF MY HOUSEHOLD? You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends) who share income and expenses. You must include yourself and all children living with you. If you live with other people who are economically independent (for example, people who do not support, who do not share income with you or your children, and who pay a prorated share of expenses), do not include them.
14. 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.
15. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE INCLUDE OUR HOUSING ALLOWANCE AS INCOME? If you get an off-base housing allowance, it must be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income.
16. My spouse is deployed to a combat zone. is her combat pay counted as income? No, if the combat pay is received in addition to her basic pay because of her deployment and it wasn't received before she was deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.
17. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for Food and Nutrition Services, formerly known as The Food Stamp Program or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call The Careline phone number (1-800-662-7030).

If you have other questions or need help, call 1-828-766-2240.

Si necesita ayuda, por favor llame al teléfono: 1-828-766-2240.

Si vous voudriez d'aide, contactez nous au numero: 1-828-766-2240.

Sincerely,

Heather Calhoun
Child Nutrition Director
Mitchell County Schools

Privacy Act Statement: This explains how we will use the information you give us.

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 Food and Nutrition Services (FNS, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) 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.

Non-discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING

A HOUSEHOLD MEMBER IS ANY CHILD OR ADULT LIVING WITH YOU

If your household receives benefits from the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS, formerly known as The Food Stamp Program), FDPIR, or gets TANF/Work First, follow these instructions:

Part 1: List child(ren)'s name, school name, and grade.

Part 2: List the name and case number for any household member receiving FNS, FDPIR and TANF/Work First. Note: The EBT Card number is not acceptable. If you are unsure of your Food and Nutrition Services (FNS, formerly known as The Food Stamp Program) Case number, contact your local Department of Social Services to get the number.

Part 3: Skip this part.

Part 4: Skip this part.

Part 5: Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are not necessary.

Part 6: Answer this question, if you choose.

If no one in your household receives benefits from the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS, formerly known as The Food Stamp Program), FDPIR, or gets TANF/Work First, and if any child in your household is homeless, a migrant or runaway, follow these instructions

Part 1: List child(ren)'s name, school name, and grade.

Part 2: Skip this part.

Part 3: If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant or a runaway check the appropriate box and call Chad Calhoun at 828-766-2245, the homeless liaison, migrant coordinator.

Part 4: Complete only if a child in your household isn't eligible under Part 3. See instructions for All Other Households.

Part 5: Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are not necessary if you didn't need to fill in Part 4.

Part 6: Answer this question, if you choose.

If you are applying for a foster child, follow these instructions:

If all children in the household are foster children:

Part 1: List child(ren)'s name, school name, and grade and check the box indicating that the child is a foster child.

Part 2: Skip this part.

Part 3: Skip this part.

Part 4: Skip this part.

Part 5: Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are not necessary.

Part 6: Answer this question, if you choose.

If one or more of the children in the household are foster children:

Part 1: List child(ren)'s name, school name, and grade and check the box indicating that the child is a foster child.

Part 2: If the household does not have a case number, skip this part.

Part 3: If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call Chad Calhoun at 828-766-2245, the homeless liaison, migrant coordinator. If not, skip this part.

Part 4: Follow these instructions to report total household income from this month or last month.

- Box 1—Name: List all household member names.
- Box 2 –Gross Income and How Often It Was Received: For each household member, list each type of income received for the month. You must tell us how often the money is received—weekly, every other week, twice a month or monthly. For earnings, be sure to list the gross income, not the take-home pay. Gross income is the amount earned *before* taxes and other deductions. You should be able to find it on your pay stub or your boss can tell you. For other income, list the amount each person got for the month from welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's benefits (VA benefits), and disability benefits. Under *All Other Income*, list Worker's Compensation, unemployment or strike benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, and any other income. Do not include income from FNS, FDPIR, WIC, Federal education benefits and foster payments received by the family from the placing agency. For **ONLY** the self-employed, under *Earnings from Work*, report income after expenses. This is for your business, farm, or rental property. If you are in the Military Privatized Housing Initiative or get combat pay, do not include these allowances as income.
- Box 3- Check if no income: If the person does not have any income, check the box

Part 5: Adult household member must sign the form and list the last four digits of their Social Security Number (or mark the box if s/he doesn't have one).

Part 6: Answer this question, if you choose.

ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS, including WIC households, follow these instructions:

Part 1: List each child's name, school, and grade and check foster child, if applicable.

Part 2: If the household does not have a case number, skip this part.

Part 3: If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call Chad Calhoun at 828-766-2245, the homeless liaison, migrant coordinator. If not, skip this part.

Part 4: Follow these instructions to report total household income from this month or last month.

- Box 1—Name: List all household members names.
- Box 2 –Gross Income and How Often It Was Received: For each household member, list each type of income received for the month. You must tell us how often the money is received—weekly, every other week, twice a month or monthly. For earnings, be sure to list the gross income, not the take-home pay. Gross income is the amount earned *before* taxes and other deductions. You should be able to find it on your pay stub or your boss can tell you. For other income, list the amount each person got for the month from welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's benefits (VA benefits), and disability benefits. Under *All Other Income*, list Worker's Compensation, unemployment or strike benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, and any other income. Do not include income from FNS, FDPIR, WIC, Federal education benefits and foster payments received by the family from the placing agency. For ONLY the self-employed, under *Earnings from Work*, report income after expenses. This is for your business, farm, or rental property. If you are in the Military Privatized Housing Initiative or get combat pay, do not include these allowances as income.
- Box 3—Check if no income: If the person does not have any income, check the box.

Part 5: Adult household member must sign the form and list the last four digits of their Social Security Number (or mark the box if s/he doesn't have one).

Part 6: Answer this question, if you choose.

FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS FAMILY APPLICATION

Part 1. Children in School including foster children

Names of all children in school (First, Middle Initial, Last)	School Name	Homeroom Teacher	Grade	Foster Child <small>(Check if the child is considered as a legal responsibility of welfare agency or court) NOTE: If all children listed are foster children, skip to Part 5.</small>
				<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>

Part 2. Benefits

If any member of your household receives Food and Nutrition Services (FNS, formerly known as the Food Stamp program), FDPIR or TANF/Work First, provide the name and case number for the person who receives benefits and SKIP to Part 5. If no one receives these benefits, SKIP to Part 3.

Name: _____ Case Number: _____

Part 3. Homeless, Migrant, Runaway Children

If the child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, runaway check the appropriate box and call Chad Calhoun, homeless liaison, migrant coordinator at phone 1-828-766-2245. Homeless Migrant Runaway

Part 4. Total Household Gross Income—You must tell us how much and how often

1. Name (List the names of EVERYONE in household including the students listed above) <i>(Example) Jane Smith</i>	2. Gross income and how often it was received. (Use exact income including cents.) <i>Example: \$100.15 per month \$100.97 twice a month \$100.76 every other week \$100.00 per week</i>				3. Check if NO income
	Earnings from work before deductions	Welfare, child support, alimony	Pensions, retirement, Social Security, SSI, VA Benefits	All Other Income	
	\$200.50 per week	\$100.75 per week	\$100.45 per month	\$75.00 per month	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ per _____	\$ _____ per _____	\$ _____ per _____	\$ _____ per _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ per _____	\$ _____ per _____	\$ _____ per _____	\$ _____ per _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ per _____	\$ _____ per _____	\$ _____ per _____	\$ _____ per _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ per _____	\$ _____ per _____	\$ _____ per _____	\$ _____ per _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ per _____	\$ _____ per _____	\$ _____ per _____	\$ _____ per _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ per _____	\$ _____ per _____	\$ _____ per _____	\$ _____ per _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ per _____	\$ _____ per _____	\$ _____ per _____	\$ _____ per _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part 5. Signature and Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (Adult must sign)

An adult household member must sign the application. If Part 4 is completed, the adult signing the form must also list the last four digits of his or her Social Security Number or mark the "I do not have a Social Security Number" box. (See Privacy Act Statement on the back of this page.)

I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the school will get Federal funds based on the information I give. I understand that school officials may verify (check) the information. I understand that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted.

Sign here: X _____ Print name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone Number: _____

Last four digits of Social Security Number: ***-**-____ I do not have a Social Security Number

Part 6. Children's ethnic and racial identities (optional)

Choose one ethnicity: <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic/Latino	Choose one or more (regardless of ethnicity): <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
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Do not fill out this part. This is for school use only.

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 Weeks x 26, Twice A Month x 24, Monthly x 12
 Total Income: _____ Per: Week, Every 2 Weeks, Twice A Month, Month, Year Household size: _____
 Categorical Eligibility: _____ Date Withdrawn: _____ Eligibility: Free _____ Reduced _____ Denied _____ Reason: _____
 Temporary: Free _____ Reduced _____ Time Period: _____ (expires after _____ days)
 Determining Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Confirming Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____ Verifying Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____

FEDERAL INCOME CHART					
Effective For School Year July 1, 2011- June 30, 2012					
Household size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	20,147	1,679	840	775	388
2	27,214	2,268	1,134	1,047	524
3	34,281	2,857	1,429	1,319	660
4	41,348	3,446	1,723	1,591	796
5	48,415	4,035	2,018	1,863	932
6	55,482	4,624	2,312	2,134	1,067
7	62,549	5,213	2,607	2,406	1,203
8	69,616	5,802	2,901	2,678	1,339
Each additional person:	7,067	589	295	272	136

Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls within the limits on this chart.

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Non-discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

SHARING INFORMATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

To save you time and effort, the information you gave on your Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application may be shared with other programs for which your children may qualify. For the following programs, we must have your permission to share your information. Sending in this form will not change whether your children get free or reduced price meals.

No! I DO NOT want information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application shared with any of these programs.

Yes! I DO want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with Talent Search Program by Lee's McRae College.

Yes! I DO want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with AP Testing Program.

Yes! I DO want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with 4-H Extension Afterschool Program and/or Young Scholar's Program.

Yes! I DO want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with School Nurses & NC Public School Health & Human Services (Dental & Vision).

If you checked yes to any or all of the boxes above, fill out the form below to ensure that your information is shared for the child(ren) listed below. Your information will be shared only with the programs you checked.

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

For more information, you may call Heather Calhoun at 828-766-2240 or e-mail at hcalhoun@mcsnc.org.

Return this form to: 72 Ledger School Road, Bakersville, NC 28705 by August 31, 2011.