

## **Fort Sam Houston ISD offers free and reduced-price meals for qualified families for the 2018-2019 school year.**

The Fort Sam Houston Independent School District has announced its policy for providing free and reduced-price meals for students served under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program.

The national School Lunch Program is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential childcare institutions. It provides nutritionally balanced reduced or free lunches to children each school day. The program was established under the National School Lunch Act, signed by President Harry Truman in 1946.

The household size and income criteria identified in this article will be used to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits. Students from households whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Foster children who are the legal responsibility of the state agency or court are eligible for free meal benefits regardless of the income of the household with whom they reside.

Applications are available at the food service or administration office of each school or can be downloaded and printed at [www.fshisd.net](http://www.fshisd.net). To apply for free and reduced-price meals, households must fill out the application and return it to the school or campus cafeteria. Applications may be submitted anytime during the school year. The information households provide on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and verification of data. Applications may be verified by the school's officials at any time during the school year. A new application must be submitted each school year.

For school officials to determine eligibility for free and reduced-priced benefits, households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits (formerly the Food Stamp Program) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) only have to list their child's name and SNAP or TANF case number. An adult household member must sign the application.

Households that do not list a SNAP or TANF case number must list the names of all household members, the amount and source of the income received by each household member, and the last four digits of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application. If the adult who signs the application does not have a Social Security number, the household member must indicate that a Social Security number is not available by writing the word "NONE", "No Number" or some indication that the person does not have a Social Security number.

The housing allowance for military personnel living in privatized housing will be permanently excluded from income when determining household eligibility for free and reduced-price meals. Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, the Child Nutrition Director will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling may wish to discuss the decision with the reviewing official on an informal basis. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to the Superintendent at 368-8700, 4005 Winans Rd. San Antonio, TX 78234.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the Child Nutrition Department. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the levels shown below.

For additional information, district residents can write the Child Nutrition Department at 4005 Winans Road San Antonio, TX 78234 or call 210-368-8745.

Meals are served every school day. Students in PK through fifth grade can prepay or purchase their meal at the cost of \$2.20 per lunch and \$0.90 per breakfast. Students in grades six – twelve can prepay or purchase their meal at the cost of \$2.45 per lunch and \$1.00 for breakfast. An on-line payment system is now available for both schools at [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com). Reduced-price school meals are .30 cents for breakfast and .40 cents for lunch.

The following is the chart of federal annual income qualifying guidelines for the free and reduced-price meal program:

Family Eligibility Income Chart

Household Size	Annual Free	Annual Reduced
1	\$15,782.00	\$22,459.00
2	\$21,398.00	\$30,451.00
3	\$27,014.00	\$38,443.00
4	\$32,630.00	\$46,435.00
5	\$38,246.00	\$54,427.00
6	\$43,862.00	\$62,419.00
7	\$49,478.00	\$70,411.00
8	\$55,094.00	\$78,403.00

For each add'l family member add:

+\$5,616                      +\$7,992

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 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), 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.

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](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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