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## **Beginning with the 2018-19 School Year, PCLS families must submit an application to receive free or reduced price school meals.**

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### *Questions and Answers:*

*1. Why are students not automatically receiving free breakfast and lunch meals for the 2018-19 School Year?*

Previously, the number of students who were receiving Federal or State assistance such as SNAP or OWF made the district eligible for a USDA program which allowed students to automatically receive school meals at no cost. The number of students receiving direct assistance has decreased over the last four years, making the district no longer eligible to participate in the program starting with the 2018-19 School Year.

*2. How do I apply for free or reduced price breakfast and lunch meals?*

On July 1, 2018, you may apply online through the PCLS Infinite Campus Parent Portal (link on the pcls.net website) or by submitting a paper application. Applying online is the fastest, most private and confidential way to apply. Please call 440-392-5086 for help in setting up your IC parent portal account or for questions when applying online. Paper applications will also be available. The summer mobile site, The Lunch Box, will also have applications available.

*3. Do all families need to apply for free or reduced price meals?*

If you receive a letter before school begins in August stating that your children have been pre-approved to receive free meals, please do not fill out an application. If any children are not listed on the letter who live in your household, please contact the Nutrition Services office at 440-392-5086 to have them added as being eligible for receiving free meals.

*4. What happens on the first day of school if I haven't applied?*

All students will receive free meals for the first few weeks of school. Families have until September 14, 2018 to apply without interruption of their child receiving free meals. Beginning September 17, 2018, any student who has not submitted an application and has been approved for free meals will be required to pay the meal price or bring a packed lunch from home.

*5. My child is not eligible for free meals. Can I put money on my child's account with a credit card for meals and a la carte purchases?*

Yes. Credit cards will be accepted through your parent portal on Infinite Campus. Cash and checks are accepted in the school cafeteria. Make checks payable to your school cafeteria.

*6. Does my child still have to select a fruit or vegetable with their meal?*

Yes. All breakfast and lunch meal requirements, including the selection of a fruit or vegetable, will still apply to the selection of a combo meal. The elementary schools will still have the fruit and veggie wagon available at lunch.

*7. How will the cashier know my child is eligible for free, reduced price or full pay meals?*

All students will be required to enter their pupil identification number (PIN) through the breakfast and lunch line. The computer system is programmed with each student's account information.