

PUBLIC RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michelle Coker School Nutrition Director 201 S. Duke St. LaFayette GA 30728 706.638.7969

The Walker County Department of Education School Nutrition Services announces its policy for free and reduced-price meals for children unable to pay the full price served in schools under the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program. Local school officials have adopted the following family size and income criteria for determining eligibility.

FAMILY SIZE	COLUMN I FREE MEALS If Family Income is Within	COLUMN II REDUCED-PRICE MEALS If Family Income is Within
1	0 to 15,444	15,445 to 21,978
2	0 to 20,826	20,827 to 29,637
3	0 to 26,208	26,209 to 37,296
4	0 to 31,590	31,591 to 44,955
5	0 to 36,972	36,973 to 52,614
6	0 to 42,354	42,355 to 60,273
7	0 to 47,749	47,750 to 67,951
8	0 to 53,157	53,158 to 75,647

FOR EACH ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBER, ADD \$5,408 PER YEAR TO THE INCOME LEVEL FOR FREE MEALS AND \$7,696 TO THE INCOME LEVEL FOR REDUCED PRICE MEALS.

REDUCED BREAKFAST COST: <u>\$.30</u>	REDUCED LUNCH COST: <u>\$.40</u>
ELEMENTARY BRK: <u>\$1.10</u>	ELEMENTARY LUNCH: <u>\$1.95</u>
MIDDLE/HIGH BRK: <u>\$1.10</u>	MIDDLE/HIGH LUNCH: <u>\$2.20</u>

Application forms are being sent to all homes with a letter to parents or guardians. To apply for free or reduced-price meals, households should fill out the application and return it to the school. Children from families whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Foster children may also be eligible for these meals. Families with foster children should contact the school for information regarding benefits. Additional forms are available at the principal's office in each school. The information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and may be verified at any time with each school district required to verify a sample annually. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year.

For school officials to determine eligibility, households receiving SNAP or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) must list the child's name, their SNAP or TANF case number and the signature and name of an adult household member. Households not receiving SNAP or TANF must list: child's name, names of all household members, the last four digits of the social security number of the parent or guardian who signs the application (or an indication that neither possesses a social security number), the amount of monthly income received by each household member, identified by source, and the signature of an adult household member certifying that the information provided is correct. The information provided by the household is confidential and will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and verifying data. We may inform officials connected 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.

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

Under the provisions of this policy, a school official will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with the determination, he/she may contact the school either orally or in writing.

<u>Michelle Coker 201 S. Duke St. LaFayette GA 30728</u>	<u>706/638-7969</u>	
NAME OF HEARING OFFICIAL	ADDRESS	PHONE

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, religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, 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, 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.

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