

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 15,678	15,679 to 22,311
2	0 to 21,112	21,113 to 30,044
3	0 to 26,546	26,547 to 37,777
4	0 to 31,980	31,981 to 45,510
5	0 to 37,414	37,415 to 53,243
6	0 to 42,848	42,849 to 60,976
7	0 to 48,282	48,283 to 68,709
8	0 to 53,716	53,717 to 76,442

FOR EACH ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBER, ADD \$5,434 PER YEAR TO THE INCOME LEVEL FOR FREE MEALS AND \$7,733 TO THE INCOME LEVEL FOR REDUCED PRICE MEALS.

RED. PR. BREAKFAST COST: \$.30
 ELEMENTARY BRK \$1.10
 MIDDLE/HIGH BRK \$1.10

RED. PR. LUNCH COST: \$.40
 ELEMENTARY LUNCH \$2.05
 MIDDLE/HIGH LUNCH \$2.30

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 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) must list the child's name, their SNAP or TANF case number and the signature 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 a parent or guardian (or an indication that neither possesses a social security number), the amount of income received by each household member, identified by source and frequency, 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</u>	<u>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 an adult household member. 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) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program 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 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](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), (AD-3027) found online: 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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