

KINGSTON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

61 Crown Street

Kingston, New York 12401-3879

(845) 339-3000 FAX (845) 339-3126

David M. Fletcher, DMD
President - Board of Education

Gerard M. Gretzinger
Superintendent of Schools

July 2009

Dear Kingston Parents and Guardians:

Your child is extremely important to all of us in the Kingston School District. We are concerned with the total development of all children. We know that children perform better in classrooms and in all other aspects of their lives when they have proper nutrition, necessary for the healthy growth of their minds and bodies. Therefore, we provide breakfast and lunch in our schools every day.

You will be pleased with the quality of our breakfast and lunch programs. We invite all students to show their support for their school food service program through frequent participation, by having a healthy breakfast and lunch at school every day. Pricing for the 2009-2010 school year for breakfast will be one dollar (\$1.00) for paying students and twenty five cents (.25) for students receiving reduced price meals. Lunch prices will be one dollar and ninety-five cents (\$1.95) for elementary paying students, two dollars and twenty cents (\$2.20) for secondary paying students and twenty five cents (.25) for students receiving reduced price meals.

Many households are eligible for free and reduced meals due to Federal financial supplements. We want as many families as possible to qualify for free and reduced meals to bring more Federal dollars into our community and to enable us to serve more children at little or no cost. Therefore, if you believe you might qualify as per the attached guidelines, please apply. If you are in need of another application please visit www.kingstoncityschools.org for a printable application that you can fill out, sign and send to the Food Service Department or send to school with your child to give to Food Service Personnel.

ALL children in the qualifying household receive the benefit of the free or reduced meals. This benefit can mean a huge savings for Kingston families. Don't miss out on this financial opportunity!

Foster children may be eligible for free or reduced meals. Families who receive food stamps or other such assistance are almost automatically eligible. You will also be pleased to know that all information will be kept confidential. Other parents, students or unauthorized school personnel will not be aware that your family is participating in this free or reduced meal program.

If you think you might be eligible, we urge you to apply. We will do everything we can to assist you.

We would also like to encourage you to sample the breakfast or lunch menu yourself. School food service has come a long way from the meals you probably had when you went to school. The cost for adult meals is two dollars for breakfast (\$1.85 plus tax) and three dollars and twenty five cents (\$3.01 plus tax) for lunch. Simply call your school ahead of time to make arrangements to have a good tasting and nutritional breakfast or lunch.

Please read the reverse side of this letter for important changes.

Please contact your school's food service staff or the district's food service office, at **943-3663** at any time. By working together, your child will enjoy the meals that contribute to a healthy mind in a healthy body.

Sincerely,

Gerard M. Gretzinger
Superintendent of Schools

IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR THE 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR

- Students approved for reduced price meals will pay twenty five cents (.25) for breakfast and twenty five cents (.25) for lunch.
- Students will now be allowed to spend an unlimited amount of money from their pre-paid accounts at all schools. If you would like to impose limits on the amount that your child can spend each day on snacks and ala carte items, please call the Food Service Office at 943-3663 for instructions. If you imposed limits last year, they will continue for this new school year.
- If your Elementary or Middle School child comes to school without money for breakfast or lunch he/she will be able to borrow up to 2 breakfast and 2 lunches, and be responsible for paying back the borrowed amount. If your child has reached the borrow limit and still has no money for meals, he/she will be sent to the Principal's Office for a voucher for the needed meal. Your child will still be responsible for paying back the amount borrowed. Students at the high school may not borrow for any meals.

KINGSTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEAL APPLICATION FACT SHEET

When filling out the application form, please pay careful attention to these helpful hints.

Food Stamp/TANF/FDPIR case number:

This must be the complete number supplied to you by the agency including all numbers and letters, for example, E 123456, or whatever combination is used in your county. Refer to a letter you received from your local Department of Social Services for your number or contact them for your number. **This number is not on your benefit card.** All children with the same case number may be listed on the same application. Separate applications are required for children with different case numbers.

Direct Certification:

If you receive food stamps or TANF, send in the Direct Certification Letter from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance instead of completing the application.

Foster Child:

A child who is living with a family but who is under the legal care of the welfare agency or court. List the child's "personal use" income. This includes only those funds provided by the agency which are identified for the personal use of the child, such as personal spending, allowances, money received by his/her family, or from a job. Funds provided for housing, food and care, medical, and therapeutic needs are not considered income to the foster child. Write "0" if the child has no personal use income.

Household:

A group of related or non-related people who are living in one house and share income and expenses.

Adult Family Members:

All related and non-related people who are 21 years of age and older living in your house.

Financially Independent:

A person is financially independent and a separate economic unit/household when his or her earnings and expenses are not shared by family/household.

Gross Income:

Is money earned or received by each member or your household before deductions. Examples of deductions are Federal tax, State tax, and Social Security deductions. See back for examples of gross income.

Examples of gross income are:

- Wages, salaries, tips, commissions, or income from self-employment
- Net farm income
- Pensions, annuities, or other retirement income including Social Security retirement benefits
- Unemployment compensation
- Welfare payments (does not include value of food stamps)
- Public Assistance payments
- Adoption assistance
- Strike benefits
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Survivor's Benefits
- Alimony or child support payments
- Disability benefits, including workman's compensation
- Veteran's subsistence benefits
- Interest or dividend income
- Cash withdrawn from savings, investments, trusts, and other resources which would be available to pay for a child's meals
- Other cash income

If you have more than one job, you must list the income from all jobs.

If you receive income from more than one source (wage, alimony, child support, etc.) you must list the income from all sources.

Current Income:

Your income at the present time **before deductions**. Farmers, self-employed workers, migrant workers, and other seasonal employees may use their income for the past 12 months.

Income Exclusion:

The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care Development (Block Grant) Fund should not be considered as income for this program

If you have any questions or need help filling out the application form, please contact:

*Food Service Office
Kingston City School District
118 Merilina Ave.
Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 943-3663*

**2009/2010 FREE AND REDUCED
SCHOOL MEALS/MILK APPLICATION INFORMATION**

Children need healthy meals to learn. Kingston City Schools offer healthy meals every school day. **Breakfast costs \$1.00, elementary school lunch \$1.95, and secondary school lunch \$2.20.** Children from households that meet Federal income guidelines (outlined below) are eligible for free meals or reduced price meals. Reduced price meals cost each eligible student \$.25 for lunch and \$.25 for breakfast. To apply for free or reduced price meals, submit a Direct Certification letter from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance **OR** complete the enclosed application, sign it, and return it to the school as soon as possible. Please refer to the guidelines contained in this letter when completing the application. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information.

1. **Do I need to fill out an application for each child?** No. Complete the application to apply for free or reduced price meals. Do not fill out more than one application for your household.
2. **Who can get free meals?** Children in households getting Food Stamps or TANF and most foster children can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines. Each foster child must be listed on a separate application, with Part 2 completed, and include an adult signature.
3. **Can homeless, runaway and migrant children get free meals?** Please call the Kingston School District's coordinator at (845) 943-3520 to see if your child(ren) qualify, if you have not been informed that they will get free meals.
4. **Who can get reduced price meals?** If your household income is within the reduced income limits on the Federal Income Chart, shown on this application, then your children will be eligible.
5. **Should I fill out an application if I received a letter this school year saying my children are approved for free or reduced price meals?** Please read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. Call the Food Service Office at (845) 943-3663 if you have any questions.
6. **If I get WIC, can my child(ren) get free meals?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced meals. Please fill out an application.
7. **Will the information I give be checked?** The school may ask you at any time during the school year to verify your eligibility. You will be notified, in writing, if you have been selected for Verification. School officials may ask you to send papers showing that your child should receive free or reduced meals at the time you applied.
8. **If I don't qualify now, may I apply later?** Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start getting Food Stamps, TANF or other benefits. If you lose your job, your children may be able to get free or reduced meals.
9. **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: Gerard M. Gretzinger, Kingston School District, 61 Crown Street, Kingston, NY 12401 (845) 339-3000.
10. **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 a U.S. Citizen to qualify for free or reduced meals.
11. **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). You must include yourself and **all** children who live with you.
12. **What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount that you normally get. For example, if you normally get \$1000 each month, but missed some work last month and only get \$900, put down that you get \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get it only sometimes.

Income Chart: The following chart lists income levels according to household size and income levels received yearly, monthly or weekly. If your total household income is the same or less than the amounts on the Income Chart below, your children can get reduced meals, and may be eligible to receive free meals.

ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART
Effective July 1, 2009 To June 30, 2010

Household Size	Annual	Month	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$20,036	\$1,670	\$835	\$771	\$386
2	26,955	2,247	1,124	1,037	519
3	33,874	2,823	1,412	1,303	652
4	40,793	3,400	1,700	1,569	785
5	47,712	3,976	1,988	1,836	918
6	54,631	4,553	2,277	2,102	1,051
7	61,550	5,130	2,565	2,368	1,184
8	68,469	5,706	2,853	2,634	1,317

For each additional family member add..... +6,919 +577 +289 +267 +134

How To Apply: To get free or reduced meals at no cost for your children, you may submit a **Direct Certification letter received from the NYS office of Temporary and Disability Assistance OR carefully complete one application** for your household and return it to the school. If you now receive food stamps or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) for any children, or participate in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), the application must include the children's names, the household food stamp, TANF or FDPIR number and the signature of an adult household member. All children with the same case number may be listed on the same application. Separate applications are required for children with different case numbers. If you do not list a food stamp, TANF or FDPIR number for all the children for whom you are applying, the application must include the names of everyone in the household, the amount of income for each household member, how often it is received, and where it comes from. It must include the signature of an adult household member and that adult's social security number, or the word "none" if the adult does not have a social security number. **An application that is not complete cannot be approved.** Contact your local Department of Social Services for your food stamp or TANF number or complete the income portion of the application.

Reporting Changes: The benefits that you are approved for at the time of application are effective for the entire school year. **You no longer need to report changes for an increase in income or decrease in household size, or if you no longer receive food stamps.**

Income Exclusions: The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care and Development (Block Grant) should **not** be considered as income for this program.

Nondiscrimination: 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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY).* USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Meals Service to Children With Disabilities: Federal regulations require schools and institutions to serve meals at no extra charge to children with a disability which may restrict their diet. A student with a disability is defined in 7CFR Part 15b.3 of Federal regulations as one who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities are defined to include functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working. You must request the special meals from the school and provide the school with medical certification from a medical doctor. If you believe your child needs substitutions because of a disability, please get in touch with us for further information, as there is specific information that the medical certification must contain.

Confidentiality: The United States Department of Agriculture has approved the release of students' names and eligibility status, without parent/guardian consent, to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of federal education programs such as Title I and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which are United States Department of Education programs used to determine areas such as the allocation of funds to schools, to evaluate socioeconomic status of the school's attendance area, and to assess educational progress. Information may also be released to State health or State education programs administered by the State agency or local education agency, provided the State or local education agency administers the program, and federal, State and local nutrition programs similar to National School Lunch Program.

Additionally, all information contained in the free and reduced application may be released to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of programs authorized under the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) or the Child Nutrition Act (CNA), including the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, the Special Milk Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC), the Comptroller General of the United States for audit purposes, and federal, State or local law enforcement officials investigating alleged violation of the programs under the NSLA or CNA.

The disclosure of eligibility information not specifically authorized by the NSLA requires a written consent statement from the parent/guardian.

We will let you know when your application is approved or denied.

For information regarding our school lunch program or on completing this form, please contact:

**Food Service Office
Kingston City School District
118 Merilina Ave.
Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 943-3663**

COMPLETE ONLY ONE APPLICATION FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD

____ F ____ R ____ D
 Temp Free Expires _____
 45 Days

FAMILY APPLICATION FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS/MILK

To apply for free and reduced price meals for your children, read the instructions on the back, complete only one form per household, sign your name and return it to Food Service Dept. Call **845-943-3663** if you need help. For additional names, list on a sheet of paper.

1. CHILDREN IN SCHOOL: (Complete a separate application for each foster child or us the Single Child Application.)

Children's Names (Last, First, MI)	Grade/Teacher	School

2. FOSTER CHILD: If the above named child is the legal responsibility of a welfare agency or court, check this box.
 List the child's personal use income: _____ (Write "0" if the child has no personal use income.) Skip to Part 5.

3. HOUSEHOLDS GETTING FOOD STAMPS OR TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF): Complete this section and sign the application in Part 5 **OR** submit a Direct Certification letter from the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). Complete a separate application for children with a different case number or no case number. Write your case number as provided on your benefit letter, **not the number on your benefit card.**
 Food Stamp Case #: _____ TANF/FDPIR Case #: _____

4. HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS & TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME: If you did not give a food stamp or TANF case number, or submit a Direct Certification letter, complete this part and all of part 5.

Show how often each amount is received. See Examples	<u>CURRENT INCOME/PAY PERIOD</u>			
	Examples: \$100.29/weekly, \$100.29/bi-weekly, \$100.29/2x per month, \$100.29/monthly If pay period is not noted, the reviewing official will process the reported income amount as received WEEKLY.			
List the names of everyone in your household	Earnings From Work Before deductions	Child Support, Alimony, Etc.	Payments from Pension or Retirement	Other Income
	Amount / How Often	Amount / How Often	Amount / How Often	Amount / How Often
1. _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____
2. _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____
3. _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____
4. _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____
5. _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____
6. _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____
7. _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____

5. SIGNATURE: An adult household member **MUST** sign the application before it can be approved.
 I certify that all of the information is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the information is being given for the school to receive federal funds; that school officials may verify the information and that deliberate misrepresentation of the information may subject me to prosecution under applicable State and federal laws, and my children may lose meal benefits.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____ SOCIAL SECURITY # _____ - _____ - _____

Home Telephone Work Telephone Mailing Address Zip Code

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: If Part 4 is completed, the adult who signs the application must provide his/her Social Security number.

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE – FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY

ANNUAL INCOME CONVERSION (ONLY CONVERT WHEN MULTIPLE FREQUENCIES ARE REPORTED ON APPLICATIONS): WEEKLY X 52; EVERY 2 WEEKS X 26; TWICE A MONTH X 24; MONTHLY X 12

FOOD STAMP, TANF, Foster Child
 INCOME HOUSEHOLD: Total Household Income/Frequency: _____ / _____ Household Size: _____
 Application APPROVED for: Free Meals Reduced Price Meals
 Temporary Free (expires in 45 days) ___/___/___ Application DENIED
 Date Notice Sent: _____ Signature of Reviewing Official: _____ Date: _____

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

To apply for free and reduced price meals, submit a Direct Certification letter received from the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance OR complete only one application for your household using the instructions. Sign the application and return the application to Food Service Dept.. Please complete a separate application for **each** foster child. Call the school if you need help: 845-943-3663. Ensure that all information is provided. Failure to do so may result in denial of benefits for your child or unnecessary delay in approving your application.

PART 1 ALL HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE STUDENT INFORMATION. DO NOT FILL OUT MORE THAN ONE APPLICATION FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD.

- (1) Print the names of the children for whom you are applying on one application. (For Foster Children, see Part 2)
- (2) List their grade and school.

PART 2 HOUSEHOLDS WITH A FOSTER CHILD SHOULD COMPLETE THIS PART AND SIGN PART 5. A foster child is the legal responsibility of a welfare agency or court. A separate application must be completed for each foster child.

- (1) List the foster child's monthly "personal use" income. ("Personal Use" income is money given by the welfare office identified by category for the child's personal use, such as an allowance, and all other money the child gets, such as money from his/her family or money from the child's employment.) Write "0" if the foster child does not get "personal use" income. SKIP PART 4. Do not list any other children, household members or income, or a social security number.
- (2) A foster parent or other official representing the child must sign the application in PART 5.

PART 3 HOUSEHOLDS GETTING FOOD STAMPS, TANF OR FDPIR SHOULD COMPLETE THIS PART AND SIGN PART 5. COMPLETE A SEPARATE APPLICATION FOR A CHILD/CHILDREN WITH A DIFFERENT CASE NUMBER.

- (1) List a current Food Stamp case number, TANF or FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations) number. Do not use the number on your benefit card. The case number is provided on your benefit letter.
- (2) An adult household member must sign the application in PART 5. SKIP PART 4. Do not list names of household members or income if you list a food stamp case number, TANF or FDPIR number.

PARTS 4 & 5 ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE THESE PARTS AND ALL OF PART 5.

- (1) Write the names of everyone in your household, whether or not they get income. Include yourself, the children you are applying for, all other children, your spouse, grandparents, and other related and unrelated people in your household. Use another piece of paper if you need more space.
- (2) Write the amount of current income each household member receives, before taxes or anything else is taken out, and indicate where it came from, such as earnings, welfare, pensions and other income. If the current income was more or less than usual, write that person's usual income. **Specify how often this income amount is received: weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, 2 x per month.** Changes in income during the school year no longer need to be reported.
- (3) The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care and Development Block Grant, TANF and At Risk Child Care Programs should **not** be considered as income for this program.
- (4) The application must include the social security number of the adult who signs **PART 5** if Part 4 is completed. If the adult does not have a social security number, write "none". If you listed a food stamp, TANF or FDPIR number, or if you are applying for a foster child, a social security number is not needed.

OTHER BENEFITS: Your child may be eligible for benefits such as Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In order to determine if your child is eligible, program officials need information from your free and reduced price meal application. Your written consent is required before any information may be released. Please refer to the attached parent Disclosure Letter and Consent Statement for information about other benefits.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Section 9 of the National School Lunch Act requires that unless your children's food stamp, TANF or FDPIR case number is provided, you must include the social security number of the adult household member signing the application, or indicate that the household member does not have a social security number. The disclosure of a social security number is voluntary. However, if a social security number is not given or an indication is not made that the signer does not have such a number, the application cannot be approved. The social security number may be used to identify the household member in carrying out efforts to verify the correctness of information stated on the application. These verification efforts may be carried out through program reviews, audits and investigations and may include contacting employers to determine income, contacting a food stamp or welfare office to determine current certification for receipt of food stamps or other benefits, contacting the State employment security office to determine the amount of benefits received and checking the documentation produced by household members to prove the amount of income received. These efforts may result in a loss or reduction of benefits, administrative claims, or legal actions if incorrect information is reported.

DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS

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, gender, or disability. To file a complaint, write to *USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY)*. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.