

## Public Release/Free and Reduced-Price Meal Policy

The Grand Prairie Independent School District today announced its policy for providing free and reduced-price meals for children served under the National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Program. Each school and/or the central office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

The household size and income criteria identified below will be used to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits. Children 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 a welfare agency or court may also be eligible for benefits regardless of the income of the household with whom they reside. Eligibility for the foster child is based on the child's income.

Eligibility is based on gross monthly income and family size. To receive the free meal program, income for a family of two cannot be more than \$16,679 annually or \$1,390 monthly or \$321 weekly. For a family of three, income cannot be more than \$20,917 annually or \$1,744 monthly or \$403 weekly. For a family of four, income cannot be more than \$25,155 annually or \$2,097 monthly or \$484 weekly. For a family of five, income cannot be more than \$29,393 annually or \$2,450 monthly or \$566 weekly. For a family of six, income cannot be more than \$33,631 annually or \$2,803 monthly or \$647 weekly. For a family of seven, income cannot be more than \$37,869 annually or \$3,156 monthly or \$729 weekly. For a family of eight, income cannot be more than \$42,107 annually or \$3,509 monthly or \$810 weekly. For each additional family member over eight, the amount of income may increase by \$4,238 annually or \$354 monthly or \$82 weekly.

To receive the reduced-price meal program, income for a family of two cannot be more than \$23,736 annually or \$1,978 monthly or \$457 weekly. For a family of three, income cannot be more than \$29,767 annually or \$2,481 monthly or \$573 weekly. For a family of four, income cannot be more than \$35,798 annually or \$2,984 monthly or \$689 weekly. For a family of five, income cannot be more than \$41,829 annually or \$3,486 monthly or \$805 weekly. For a family of six, income cannot be more than \$47,860 annually or \$3,989 monthly or \$921 weekly. For a family of seven, income cannot be more than \$53,891 annually or \$4,491 monthly or \$1,037 weekly. For a family of eight, income cannot be more than \$59,922 annually or \$4,994 monthly or \$1,153 weekly. For each additional family member over eight, the amount of income may increase by \$6,031 annually or \$503 monthly or \$116 weekly.

Application forms are being distributed to all households with a letter informing households of the availability of free and reduced-price meals for their children. Applications also will be available at the principal's office in each school. To apply for free and reduced-price meals, households must fill out the application and return it to the school. Applications may be submitted any time 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 officials at any time during the school year.

For school officials to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits, households receiving food stamps or TANF only have to list their child's name, food stamp or TANF case number. An adult household member must sign the application.

Households that do not list a food stamp 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 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 application must be signed by an adult household member.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, the Food Service Secretary/Clerk will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the officials 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 Food Service Director, 514 Skyline Road, Grand Prairie, Texas, 75051. Telephone number: (972) 343-4410.

Households that list a food stamp or TANF case number must report when the household no longer receives these benefits. Also, 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.

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.

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