

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING

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While school meals will be free to all students in School Year 2021-2022 regardless of your household's income, we encourage you to complete an application for free or reduced-price meal benefits. The information provided on the school meal application may be used for other programs, such as Pandemic-Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT), Federal and State funding for your school, reduced registration fees for academic tests, free or discounted fees for athletic programs, discounted rates for internet service, and many more!

Please use these instructions to help you fill out the school meal application for free or reduced-price school meals. You only need to submit one application per household, even if your children attend more than one school in **Fowler Elementary School District #45**. The application must be filled out completely to certify your children for free or reduced-price school meals.

Each step of the instructions is the same as the steps on the application. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please contact **Fowler Elementary School District's Foodservice Department @ 623.707.2059**.

Please **use a pen (not a pencil)** when filling out the application and do your best to print clearly.

### STEP 1- NAMES OF ALL CHILDREN IN THE HOUSEHOLD

List all household members who are infants, children, and students up to and including grade 12. This should include all children who live in your household. They do not have to be related to you to be part of your household.

List the first name, middle initial, and last name of each child. List one name per line and write one letter in each box. Stop if you run out of space. If you need additional lines, attach a second piece of paper with all required information for additional children.

If the children attend school, please list the name of the school.

If you believe the children are foster, homeless, migrant, or runaway, be sure to mark the box next to the child's name under foster or homeless, migrant, runaway.

Once all children have been listed, **go to STEP 2**.

### STEP 2- SNAP, TANF, OR FDPIR PARTICIPATION

Do any household members (including the adults) currently participate in one or more of the following assistance programs: SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR?

In the gray bar, circle either yes or no.

If Yes- List the case number in the large box labeled Case Number and go directly to STEP 4.

If No- Leave this section blank and **go to STEP 3**.

### STEP 3- HOUSEHOLD INCOME INFORMATION

- A. Child Income-** Report all income earned by children in the household. Refer to the chart below titled "Sources of Income for Children" and report the **combined gross income** for all children listed in STEP 1 in the box marked "Total Child Income."

Child Income is money received from outside your household that is paid directly to your children. Many households do not have any child income. Use the chart below to determine if your household has child income to report. If children do not receive income, enter '0' or leave these boxes empty. If you leave this part blank, it will mean that you have no income to report for any children in the household.

Only count foster children's income if you are applying for them together with the rest of your household. It is optional for the household to list foster children living with them as part of the household.

Sources of Income for Children	
Type of Income	Examples
Earnings from work	A child has a job where they earn a salary or wages.
Social Security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disability payments</li> <li>Survivor Benefits</li> </ul>	A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits. A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased and their child receives social security benefits.
Income from persons <i>outside</i> the household	A friend or extended family member <i>regularly</i> gives a child spending money.
Income from any other source	A child receives income from a private pension fund, annuity or trust.

**B. Adult Household Members and Income-** Print the name of each household member in the boxes marked "Names of Adult Household Members (First and Last)." **Do not list any household members you listed in STEP1.** List one name per line and write both first and last name in each box. If you need additional lines, attach a second piece of paper with all required information for additional household members.

Report **gross income** (amount before taxes and deductions) for each adult on the same line where the name is listed. Then, fill in the circle to indicate if the earnings are received Weekly, Bi-Weekly (every other week), 2x month (2 payments per month), or Monthly. The chart below gives examples of the different types of income for adults. If someone does not receive income, enter '0' or leave these boxes empty.

Sources of Income for Adults		
Earnings from Work	Public Assistance/ Alimony/Child Support	Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Salary, wages, cash bonuses</li> <li>Net income from self-employment (farm or business)</li> </ul> <p><b>For military families:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic pay and cash bonuses (<i>do not include combat pay, FSSA, or privatized housing allowances</i>)</li> <li>Allowances for off-base housing, food and clothing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unemployment benefits</li> <li>Workers Compensation</li> <li>Supplemental Security Income (SSI)</li> <li>Cash Assistance from State or local government</li> <li>Alimony payments</li> <li>Child support payments</li> <li>Veteran's benefits</li> <li>Strike benefits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits)</li> <li>Private Pensions or disability</li> <li>Income from trusts or estates</li> <li>Annuities</li> <li>Investment Income</li> <li>Earned Interest</li> <li>Rental Income</li> <li>Regular cash payments from outside household</li> </ul>

The back of this application provides the same Sources of Income charts.

### **C. Total number of household members and SSN.**

Report the total number of people in your household (all adults and children) in the one box.

Report the last 4 digits of the Social Security Number (SSN) for the primary wage earner or other adult in the household. You are eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social Security Number. Simply leave the space blank and check the box labeled "Check if no SSN."

### **STEP 4- Contact information and adult signature**

All applications must be signed by an adult household member. By signing the application, that household member is promising that all information has been truthfully and completely reported.

### **Please sign, date and print your name.**

Provide your contact information including your address if this information is available. If you have no permanent address, this does not make your children ineligible for free or reduced-price school meals. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional but providing it helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.

### **OPTIONAL INFORMATION**

The back of this application provides a section for you to share information about your children's race and ethnicity. This field is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals.

This section also includes important information about privacy and civil rights. Please read these statements before submitting the application.

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Once the form is completed, it should be mailed, or delivered to **your student's school front office or mail to 7250 W. Lower Buckeye Rd. Phoenix, AZ. 85043 ATTN: Foodservice Department.**

*The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information requested in order to verify your children's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals. If you do not provide the information or provide incomplete information, your children may no longer receive free or reduced-price meals.*

*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, audiotope, 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](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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).*

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

Dear Foster Parents,

Welcome to Fowler Elementary School District #45! We look forward to a healthy and successful school year with your children. With the start of a new school year, we wanted to remind you about school meals for your family.

## **Foster Children Eat for Free**

A child in foster care, who is formally placed by a court or foster agency, can receive free school meals for the entire school year. If the school knows about your foster child, the child should already be getting free meals. If your foster child is not eating for free or you were not notified that he or she can receive free meals, you may apply for free school meals for your foster child at any time by contacting The Foodservice Department @ 623.707.2059.

## **Meals for Other Children in Your House**

Foster parents who apply for school meals may include both a foster child and their other children on the same application. Including a foster child on the same application as your other children will increase your house size, which may help your other children eat for free. But even if your other children cannot get free meals, your foster child can still get free school meals.

## **When a Foster Child Moves**

If your family moves or your foster child moves to a new school, he or she can still get free meals. If you are in the same school district you do not have to do anything for your foster child to continue to get free meals. If you move to another school district, your foster child can still get free meals but you may need to reapply to continue or start school meal benefits. If your foster child stops getting free meals when you move, please let the school know as soon as possible.

If you have questions about the school meal program, please contact The Foodservice Department at 623.707.2059. We look forward to working together to ensure your children receive nutritious meals this school year.

Sincerely,

*The Foodservice Team*