



Q: Can I apply for free and reduced price meals online?

A: Yes, we highly encourage you to complete your application online. To complete your application on line go to www.sbusd.org and select School Meal Application Packet

Q: Where can I get a free and reduced price application for meal benefits?

A: Meal benefit applications are available at all school offices or you may pick one up at the District Child Nutrition Office at: 1111 Saturn Blvd, San Diego CA 92154 (619) 628-5390

Q: Can I fax my application to the Food and Nutrition Department?

A: No. An official application must contain the **original signature** of the applicant.

Q: Where do I send my completed application?

A: Mail completed applications to: SBUSD Child Nutrition Office at: 1111 Saturn Blvd, San Diego, CA 92154 (619) 628-5390 or you can drop it off at your child's school. You can also personally deliver your application to the District Child Nutrition Office at: 1111 Saturn Blvd, San Diego, CA 92154 (619) 628-5390

Q: Who can get free or reduced price meals?

A: Children receiving CalFresh (formerly the Food Stamp Program), CalWORKs, or FDPIR. You are also eligible for meal benefits if your household income is within the limits on the Federal Income Chart. A foster child or children living in a group home are also eligible.

Q: How long does it take to process an application?

A: Ten school days after receipt of the meal application in the Child Nutrition Department.

Q: Will I need to pay for my child's meals until the application is processed?

A: Yes, meal benefits start only after the **approval date** of your application.

Q: How will I know if my child qualifies for free or reduced price meals?

A: The Child Nutrition Department notifies all families who submit an application of their child's status by mail.

Q: Can I put my child's nickname on the application?

A: No. Please write your child's full name exactly as used to register him or her in school.

Q: Who should I include on the application as members of my household?

A: You must include every person living in your house, related or not. This includes: yourself, your spouse, all children, grandparents, relatives, friends, babies, etc.

Q: Do I have to complete a free/reduced application each year?

A: Yes, You must complete a new complete application each school year for approval.

Q: My child was on the lunch program last year. Will her free status carry over to this year?

A: It will carry over only for the first 30 school days. We must have a new application each school year.

Q: Do pre-kindergarten students automatically qualify for free/reduced meals?

A: No. All students must complete a Free and Reduced Price Meal application each year.

Q: Do I need to fill out a separate application for each child?

A: No. Use **one** application form for all students in your household (including foster children).

Q: Our income this year is identical to last year and my children were certified as free. Why are they reduced this year?

A: This is very common. The Federal Income Guidelines change every year which may change your eligibility status.

Q: Do foster children qualify for free meals?

A: Yes. Foster children automatically qualify for free meals. List all children, including foster children, on the same application form and include all income received by the foster children.

Q: Why was my application for meal benefits denied?

A: Your income may be high. Also, you may have omitted or incorrectly completed important information on the application form.

Q: If I do not qualify for free or reduced price meals now, may I apply later?

A: Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your household size or income changes, or if you start receiving CalFresh, CalWORKs or FDPIR.

Q: Can my children receive free meals if they qualified for free meals in another district?

A: No. You must first complete a meal benefit application for South Bay Union School District.

Q: How can my child owe money if he or she is authorized free meals?

A: Your child may have consumed meals before your application was officially approved. Parents are liable for all meals consumed by their children

Q: Who has permission to see my application for free and reduced price meals?

A: The authorizing official and specific Board approved school district officials.