



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

Press Release

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Office of the State Superintendent of Education OSSE Announces Criteria and Participants for 2016-17 School Year Free and Reduced-Priced Meals

The District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education announces the criteria for determining the eligibility of children to receive free and reduced-price meals for institutions participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), for schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the Special Milk Program (SMP) for free milk in schools.

For schools participating in the NSLP and SMP, a letter or notice and family application forms are distributed to parents of all children in attendance at school at the beginning of each school year. The letter or notice shall contain the following information:

- The eligibility criteria for either free or reduced-priced meal benefits and for free milk benefits;
- How a household may complete an application for free or reduced-price meals or for free milk for its children;
- An explanation that an application for free or reduced-price benefits cannot be approved unless it is completed in its entirety;
- An explanation that households with children who are members of currently certified food stamp or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) households may submit applications with abbreviated information;
- An explanation that the information on the application may be verified at any time during the school year;
- How a household may apply for benefits at any time during the school year as circumstances change;
- A statement that children having parents or guardians who become unemployed are eligible for free or reduced-price meals or for free milk, provided that the income is within the eligibility criteria;
- A statement that in certain cases foster children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals or free milk regardless of the household income; and
- How a household may appeal the decision of the School Food Authority under the appeal procedures by making a request to the school official.

For participating institutions under CACFP, a similar letter is distributed to parents/guardians and/or adults enrolled in CACFP informing them of the benefits of the program, the purpose of collecting income information, defining a household, and information on reporting receipt of food stamps, TANF, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and Medicaid. In addition, information is provided on how households may appeal decisions determined by the CACFP organizations.

The CACFP institutions and schools will receive free or reduced-price meal reimbursement based on the following income scales from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, calculated on annual income.

Family Size	Eligibility Scale for Free Meals	Family Size	Eligibility Scale for Reduced-Price Meals
One	\$15,444	One	\$21,978
Two	\$20,826	Two	\$29,637
Three	\$26,208	Three	\$37,296
Four	\$31,590	Four	\$44,953
Five	\$36,972	Five	\$52,614
Six	\$42,354	Six	\$60,273
Seven	\$47,749	Seven	\$67,951
Eight	\$53,157	Eight	\$75,647
Each additional family member	+\$5,408	Each additional family member	+\$7,696

Special Milk Program – All

- The Episcopal Center for Children

[National School Lunch Program – Public Charter Schools](#) [PDF]

[National School Lunch Program – DC Public Schools](#) [PDF]

[National School Lunch Program – Private Schools](#) [PDF]

[A complete listing of institutions participating in the 2015-16 Child and Adult Care Food Program \(CACFP\)](#) [PDF]

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(1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250-9410;

(2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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