

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Liberty Tech Charter School** offers healthy meals every school day. Lunch costs around \$5-6. Your children may qualify for reduced price meals. Reduced price is \$3.00 for lunch. This packet includes an application for reduced price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions.

Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

### **1. WHO CAN GET REDUCED PRICE MEALS?**

- All children in households receiving benefits from supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) or (TANF) are eligible for reduced meals.
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- Children may receive reduced price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.

### **2. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY?**

Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household. Please send any questions to [erin.mckelvey@libertytechcharter.org](mailto:erin.mckelvey@libertytechcharter.org)

### **3. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD?**

No. Use one Reduced Price School Meals Application for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: the front office or email [ltcs.accountant@libertytechcharter.org](mailto:ltcs.accountant@libertytechcharter.org)

### **4. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE?**

Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year, through August 31, 2022 (you will be charged the reduced lunch charge starting August 1, 2022, as we no longer offer Free lunch). You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not send in a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your child is eligible, your child will be charged the full price for meals.

### **5. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?**

Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for reduced price meals. Please send in an application.

**6. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?**

Yes. You must provide proof of SNAP or TANF benefits. If income based, you would need to provide most recent tax returns and most recent paystubs covering a 30-day period. No EXCEPTIONS.

**7. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER?**

Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.

**8. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION?**

All decisions are final.

**9. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN?**

Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for reduced price meals.

**10. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME?**

List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.

**11. WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT?**

Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.

**12. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY?**

Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pays resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.

**13. WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY?**

List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper and attach it to your application. If you have other questions or need help, call 77-461-0005 or email [ltcs.accountant@libertytechcharter.org](mailto:ltcs.accountant@libertytechcharter.org).

**14. Why doesn't LTCS offer FREE lunch?**

LTCS does not qualify to participate in the USDA Federal lunch program. Due to LTCS not receiving federal funds for Free and Reduced lunch we do not have the funds to support the program on our own. As a courtesy we will continue to offer reduced lunch for those that qualify. If you qualify for reduced lunch, you will need to agree to the terms and conditions set forth by LTCS.

Celesta McGee