

COPLEY-FAIRLAWN CITY SCHOOLS

3797 Ridgewood Rd.

Copley, OH 44321

2011-2012 School Year

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. The Copley-Fairlawn City School District offers healthy meals each school day. Children may buy a lunch for \$2.75 at Arrowhead, Ft. Island, and Herberich School, \$3.00 at Copley-Fairlawn Middle School and Copley High School. Your children may qualify for free meals or reduced price meals. The reduced price is \$.40 for a lunch.

1. **Do I need to fill out an application for each child?** No. Complete the application to apply for free or reduced price meals. Use one Free and 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 your school.**
2. **Who can get free meals?** Children in households receiving benefits through the Food Assistance Program (SNAP) formerly the Food Stamp Program or OWF can get free meals. Most foster children can get free meals regardless of foster parent's income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines.
3. **Can foster children get free meals?** Yes, foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are eligible for free meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for free meals regardless of income.
4. **Can homeless, runaway and migrant children get free meals?** Please call Dale Panovich at 330-664-4809 to see if your children qualify, if you have not been informed that they will get free meals.
5. **Who can get reduced price meals?** Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Income Chart, shown on this application.
6. **Should I fill out an application if I got a letter this school year saying my children are approved for free or reduced price meals?** Please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school at 330-664-4809 if you have questions.
7. **My child's application was approved last year. Do I need to fill out another one?** Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
8. **I get WIC. Can my child(ren) get free meals?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please fill out an application.
9. **Will the information I give be checked?** Yes, we may ask you to send written proof.
10. **If I don't qualify now, may I apply later?** Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start receiving Food Assistance Program (SNAP), OWF or other benefits. If you lose your job, your children may be able to get free or reduced price meals.
11. **What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application?** You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Brian E. Poe, 3797 Ridgewood Rd., Copley, OH 44321 at 330-664-4801.
12. **May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen?** Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced price meals.
13. **Who should I include as members of my household?** You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends) who share income and expenses. You must include yourself and all children who live with you. If you live with other people who are economically independent (for example, people who you do not support, who do not share income with you or your children, and who pay a pro-rated share of expenses), do not include them.
14. **What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount that you normally get. For example, if you normally get \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only got \$900, put down that you get \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get it only sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
15. **We are in the military, do we include our housing allowance as income?** If you get an off-base housing allowance, it must be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income.
16. **My spouse is deployed to a combat zone. Is her combat pay counted as income?** No, if the combat pay is received in addition to her basic pay because of her deployment and it wasn't received before she was deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.
17. **My Family needs more help. Are there programs we might apply for?** To find out how to apply for Ohio SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 877-852-0010.

If you have other questions or need help, call 330-664-4809
Si necesita ayuda, por favor llame al telefono: 330-664-4809
Si vous voudriez d'aide, contactez nous au numero: 330-664-4809

Sincerely,
Dale Panovich
Food Service Director

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING

A HOUSEHOLD MEMBER IS ANY CHILD OR ADULT LIVING WITH YOU

IF YOUR HOUSEHOLD RECEIVES BENEFITS FROM THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) OR OHIO WORKS FIRST (OWF), FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

Part 1: List all household members and the school name and school grade level for each child.

Part 2: List the 10-digit case number for any household member (including adults) receiving SNAP or OWF benefits.

Part 3: Skip this part.

Part 4: Skip this part.

Part 5: Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are not necessary.

Part 6: Answer this question if you choose to.

IF NO ONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD GETS SNAP OR OWF BENEFITS AND IF ANY CHILD IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS HOMELESS, A MIGRANT OR RUNAWAY, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

Part 1: List all household members and the school name and school grade level for each child.

Part 2: Skip this part.

Part 3: If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway, check the appropriate box and call [your school, homeless liaison, migrant coordinator].

Part 4: Complete only if a child in your household isn't eligible under Part 3. See Instruction for All Other Households.

Part 5: Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are not necessary if you didn't need to fill in part 4.

Part 6: Answer this question if you choose to.

IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR A FOSTER CHILD, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

If all children in the household are foster children:

Part 1: List all foster children and the school name and school grade level for each child. Check the box indicating the child is a foster child.

Part 2: Skip this part.

Part 3: Skip this part.

Part 4: Skip this part.

Part 5: Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are **not** necessary.

Part 6: Answer this question if you choose to.

If some of the children in the household are foster children:

Part 1: List all household members and the name of school and school grade level for each child. For any person, including children, with no income, you must check the "No Income" box. Check the box if the child is a foster child.

Part 2: If the household does not have a SNAP or OWF 10-digit case number, skip this part.

Part 3: If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call [your school, homeless liaison, migrant coordinator]. If not, skip this part.

Part 4: Follow these instructions to report total household income from this month or last month.

- **Box 1—Name:** List all household members with income.
- **Box 2—Gross Income and How Often It Was Received:** For each household member, list each type of income received for the month. Check the box to tell us how often the person receives the income—weekly, every other week, twice a month, or monthly. For earnings, be sure to list the **gross income**, not the take-home pay. Gross income is the amount earned *before* taxes and other deductions. You should be able to find it on your pay stub or your boss can tell you. For other income, list the amount and check the box to tell us how often each person got for the month from welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's benefits (VA benefits), and disability benefits. Under *All Other Income*, list Worker's Compensation, unemployment or strike benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, and any other income. Do not include income from SNAP, FDPIR, WIC, Federal education benefits and foster payments received by the family from the placing agency. For **ONLY** the self-employed, under *Earnings from Work*, report income after expenses. This is for your business, farm, or rental property. If you are in the Military Privatized Housing Initiative or get combat pay, do not include these allowances as income.

Part 5: Adult household member must sign the form and list the last four digits of their Social Security Number (or mark the box if s/he doesn't have one).

Part 6: Answer this question, if you choose.

ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS, INCLUDING WIC HOUSEHOLDS, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

Part 1: List all household members and the school name and school grade level for each child. For any person, including children, with no income, you must check the "No Income Box".

Part 2: If the household does not have a SNAP or OWF 10-digit case number, skip this part.

Part 3: If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call [your school, homeless liaison, migrant coordinator]. If not, skip this part.

Part 4: Follow these instructions to report total household income from this month or last month.

- **Box 1–Name:** List all household members with income.
- **Box 2 –Gross Income and How Often It Was Received:** For each household member, list each type of income received for the month. Check the box to tell us how often the person receives the income—weekly, every other week, twice a month, or monthly. For earnings, be sure to list the **gross income**, not the take-home pay. Gross income is the amount earned *before* taxes and other deductions. You should be able to find it on your pay stub or your boss can tell you. For other income, list the amount and check the box to tell us how often each person got for the month from welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's benefits (VA benefits), and disability benefits. Under *All Other Income*, list Worker's Compensation, unemployment or strike benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, and any other income. Do not include income from SNAP, FDPIR, WIC, Federal education benefits and foster payments received by the family from the placing agency. For **ONLY** the self-employed, under *Earnings from Work*, report income after expenses. This is for your business, farm, or rental property. If you are in the Military Privatized Housing Initiative or get combat pay, do not include these allowances as income.

Part 5: An adult household member must sign the form and list the last four digits of his or her Social Security Number (or mark the box if s/he doesn't have one).

Part 6: Answer this question if you choose to.

Don't fill out this part. This is for school use only.

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 Weeks x 26, Twice A Month x 24 Monthly x 12

Total Income: _____ Per: Week, Every 2 Weeks, Twice A Month, Month, Year Household size: _____

Categorical Eligibility: ___ Date Withdrawn: _____ Eligibility: Free ___ Reduced ___ Denied ___ Reason: _____

Temporary: Free ___ Reduced ___ Time Period: _____ (expires after ___ days)

Determining/Approval Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Confirming Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Follow-up Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____

If selected for Verification, Date Verification Notice Sent: _____ Response Date: _____ 2nd Notice Sent: _____ Results Sent: _____

Verification Result: No Change ___ Free to Reduced Price ___ Free to Paid ___ Reduced Price to Free ___ Reduced Price to Paid ___

Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	20,147	1,679	388
2	27,214	2,268	524
3	34,281	2,857	660
4	41,348	3,446	796
5	48,415	4,035	932
6	55,482	4,624	1,067
7	62,549	5,213	1,203
8	69,616	5,802	1,339
Each additional person:	7,067	589	136

Privacy Act Statement: This explains how we will use the information you give us.

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Ohio Works First (OWF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We MAY share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

Non-discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. "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. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer".

SHARING INFORMATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

To save you time and effort, the information you gave on your Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application may be shared with other programs for which your children may qualify. **For the following programs, we must have your permission to share your information. Sending in this form will not change whether your children get free or reduced price meals.**

- No! I **DO NOT** want information from my Free and Reduced Price Schools Meals Application shared with any of these programs.

- Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price Schools Meals Application with Copley-Fairlawn Kiwanis Holiday Food Program and Copley Police Department Share-A-Christmas.
- Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with Summer School Program, School Field Trips and School Fees.
- Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with Copley Outreach Center.

If you checked yes to any or all of the boxes above, fill out the form below. Your information will be shared only with the programs you checked.

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

For more information you may call Dale Panovich at 330-664-4809

Return this form to:
Dale Panovich
3797 Ridgewood Rd.
Copley, OH 44321

SHARING INFORMATION WITH MEDICAID/*Healthy Start, Healthy Families*

Dear Parent/Guardian:

If your children get free or reduced price school meals, they may also be able to get free or low-cost health insurance through Medicaid or the State of Ohio *Healthy Start, Healthy Families* Program. Children with health insurance are more likely to get regular health care and are less likely to miss school because of sickness.

Because health insurance is so important to children's well-being, **the law allows us to tell Medicaid and *Healthy Start, Healthy Families* that your children are eligible for free or reduced price meals, unless you tell us not to.** Medicaid and *Healthy Start, Healthy Families* only use the information to identify children who may be eligible for their programs. Program officials may contact you to offer to enroll your children. Filling out the Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application does not automatically enroll your children in health insurance.

If you do not want us to share your information with Medicaid or *Healthy Start, Healthy Families*, fill out the form below and send in (Sending in this form will not change whether your children get free or reduced price meals).

- No! I DO NOT** want information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application shared with Medicaid or the *Healthy Start, Healthy Families*.

If you checked no, fill out the form below.

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Address: _____

For more information, you may call [name] at [phone].
Return this form to: [address] by [date].