Apply online at: family.titank12.com

2023-2024 JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS Family Application for Free and Reduced Price Meals
Read How to apply for Free and Reduced Price School Meals for more information. Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil).

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If NO > Go to STEP 3. If YES > Write a case in		go to ST	EP 4 (<u>Do</u> 1	not comple	ete STEP	<u>' 3)</u>	NUI	CASE MBER:		Ι				7					r in this					
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Jefferson County Schools offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.50 elementary/\$1.50 middle & high: lunch costs \$2.25 elementary/\$2.50 middle & high. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is \$0.30 for breakfast and \$0.40 for lunch. This packet includes an application for free or 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 FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?
 - All children in households receiving benefits from Alabama SNAP, the Food Distribution Program
 on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)] or Alabama TANF, or Alabama Medicaid Free are eligible for
 free meals
 - Alabama Medicaid Reduced are eligible for reduced priced meals.
 - Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
 - Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
 - · Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
 - Children may receive free or reduced price meals if your household's income is within the limits on
 the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if
 your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year_2023-2024									
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly						
1	26,973	2,248	519						
2	36,482	3,041	702						
3	45,991	3,833	885						
4	55,500	4,625	1,068						
5	65,009	5,418	1,251						
6	74,518	6,210	1,434						
7	84,027	7,003	1,616						
8	93,536	7,795	1,799						
Each additional person:	9,509	793	183						

- 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? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or email hdavis@jefcoed.com or 205-379-2153.
- DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. 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: Child Nutrition Programs,
 2100 18th Street South, Birmingham, Al 35209. Phone (205) 379-2285.
- 4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? No, but please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact Denise Billitz-Brown at Child Nutrition Programs, 2100 18th Street South, Birmingham, Al 35209 or at dbillitz@jefcoed.com immediately.

- 5. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? Yes! You are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application if you are able. The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit www.jefcoed.com to begin or to learn more about the online application process. Contact Child Nutrition Programs, 2100 18th Street South, Birmingham Al 35209 or at (205) 379-2285 or dbillitz@jefcoed.com if you have any questions about the online application.
- 6. 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 September 21, 2023. 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 for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for meals.
- I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC may be eliqible for free or reduced price meals. Please send in an application.
- WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
- 9. 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 free and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
- 10. 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: Dr. Walter Gonsoulin, Superintendent, 2100 18th Street South, Birmingham, Al 35209 or Phone (205) 379-2285 or email dwojdula@jefcoed.com.
- 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 free or reduced price meals.
- 12. 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.
- 13. 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.
- 14. DO I HAVE TO PROVIDE MY SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER? Only the last 4 digits of the social security number of the household's primary wage earner or another adult household member (or an indication of "none") is required.
- 15. 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 pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.
- 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. Contact Child Nutrition Programs, 2100 18Street South, Birmingham AL 35209 or (205) 379-2285 or dbillitz@iefcoed.com
- 17. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? TO FIND OUT HOW TO APPLY FOR ALABAMA SNAP OR OTHER ASSISTANCE BENEFITS, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE OR CALL (800) 382-0499.

If you have other questions or need help, call 205-379-2285

Sincerely,

Dr. Beth Miller, Director of Child Nutrition Programs

INSTRUCTIONS Sources of Income

Sources of Income for Children								
Sources of Child Income	Example(s)							
Earnings from work	A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages							
Social Security Disability Payments Survivor's Benefits	 A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Securibenefits. A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their chireceives social security benefits. 							
Income from persons outside the household	A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money.							
Income from any other source	A child receives income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust.							

Sources of Income for Adults									
Earnings from Work	Public Assistance/ Alimony/Child Support	Pensions/Retirement/ All Other Income							
Salary, wages, cash bonuses Net income from self-employment (farm or business) If you are in the U.S. Military: Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances) Allowances for off-base housing, food, and clothing	Unemployment benefits Worker's compensation Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Cash assistance from State or local government Alimony payments Child support payments Veteran's benefits Strike benefits	Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits) Private pensions or disability benefits Regular income from trusts or estates Annuities Investment income Earned interest Regular cash payments from outside household							

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 last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of 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), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) 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.

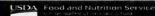
In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who This institution is an equal opportunity provider. require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508 -11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted 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; or
- 2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- 3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

Do not fill out For School U	se Only	and the same and the same and			
Annual Income Conversion: Week	dy x 52, Every 2 Weeks x 26,	Twice a Month x 24 Monthly x 12	2		
Total Income	How often? Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Monthly Monthly O	Household size	Categorical Eligibility	Eligibility: Free Reduced Denied O O	
Determining Official's Signature	Date	Confirming Official's Signature	Date \	/erifying Official's Signature	Date



How To Apply for Free and Reduced Price School Meals

Please use these instructions to help you fill out the application for free and reduced price school meals. You only need to submit one application per household, even if your children attend more than one school in the

The application must be filled out completely to determine the eligibility of your child(ren) for free or reduced price school meals. Please follow these instructions in order! Each step of the instructions is the same as the steps on your application. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please contact deferson County Children visiting Program:Denise Billitz-Brown 205-379-2285 or email

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

Step 1: List ALL children, infants, and students up to and including grade 12

to should I list here? When filing out this section, please include ALL members in your household who are:

• Children age 16 or under AND are supported with the household's income;

• In your care under a formal foster arrangement through a court or state/local agency, or qualify as homeless, migrant, or runsway youth;

• Students storeding (regardless of ago)

Students attending (regardies).
A) List seak, child's name. Print each child's name. Use one line of the application for each child.
In the child's name of the child of the period of the child.
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Is a of add a student or stutenocal agency, or quality as nonnecess, migrant, or riversely youth?

If Yes, "write the grade level of the student in the "Ceater Collete" of the chief name. If the collection is student in the "Ceater Collete" of the chief name. If the collection is student in the "Ceater Collete" of the chief name. If the collection is student in the student in th

shold. They do NOT have to be related to

Step 2: Do any household members currently participate in SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR?

- A) If no one in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:
 Check "No" in Step 2 and go to Step 3.

- B) If anyone in your household participates in any of the above listed programs: Write a case number for SIAAP. TANF, or FDPIR, You only need to provide one case number. If you participate in one of these programs and do not know your case number, contact: Alabarma SIAAP at 1-800-221-5889

Step 3: List ALL household members and income for each member

- do I report my Income?

 Let the list tilled "<u>Sources of Income</u>" & "<u>Examples of Income for Children</u>," on the back side of the application form to determine if your household.

- Use the lists titled "<u>Rources of Incoms</u>" & "<u>Examples of mooths for similars</u> has income to report.

 Report all amounts in GROSS INCOME ONLY. Report all income in whole dollars. Do not include cents.

 Oross income is the total income received before states and "advanced to the list of the common state o

A. Report income earned by adults

- Who should I list here?

 When filling out this section, please include ALL adult members in your household who are living with you and share income and expenses, even if they are not related and even if they do not receive income of their own.

 Po NOT include:
- People who live with you but are not supported by your household's income AND do not contribute income to your ho infants, children and students already listed in Step 1.

Step 3: List ALL household members and income for each member

1) List actuit household members' names.
Print the name of each household member in the boxes marked "Names of Adult Household Members (First and Last)." Include college students, unless they are declared independently on taxes (all college students are considered adults). Do not list any household members you listed in Step 1.

- List all income from work in the "Earnings from Work" field on the application. This is usually the money received from working at jobs. If you are a self-employed business or farm owner, you will report your net income. Net income is your income after taxes and deductions have been subtracted.
- What if I have multiple jobs? List each job separately by entering your name and income from each job on a new line. Add an additional sheet of
- what if I am self-employed? List income from your business as a net amount. This net amount is calculated by subtracting the total operatine expenses of your business from its gross receipts (revenue). Gross receipts or revenue are all the income earned from the sale of any productive expenses of your business from its gross receipts (revenue).
- If a child listed in Step 1 has income, follow the instructions in Step 3, Part B.
- List income from public assistance/child support/alimony.

 List all income that applies in the "Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony" field on the application. <u>Do not report the cash value of any public assistance benefits NOT listed on the chart.</u> If income is received from child support or alimony, only report court-ordered payments. Informal but regular payments should be reported as "other" income in the next part.
- List Income from pensions/retirement/all other income.

 List all income that applies in the "Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income" field on the application.
 - What if I receive income from multiple sources in this category? List each source separately by entering your name and income from each source on a new line. Add an additional sheet of paper if necessary.
- List total household size.
 - Enter the total number of household members in the field "Total Household Members (Children and Adults)." This number MUST be equal to the number of household members listed in Step 1 and Step 3. If there are any members of your household that you have not listed on the application, go back and add them. It is very important to list all household members, as the size of your household affects your eligibility for free and reduced price meals.
- Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number. An adult household member must enter the tast four digits of their Social Security Number in the space provided. You are eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social Security Number. If no adult household members have a Social Security Number, leave this space blank and mark the box to the right labeled "Check if no Social Security Number."

3.B List income earned by children

- List all income earned or received by children.
 List the combined gross income for ALL children listed in Step 1 in your household in the box marked "Child Income." Only count foster children's income if you are applying for them longether with the rest of your household.
 - What is Child Income? Child income is money received from outside your household that is paid DIRECTLY to your children. Many households do

Step 4: Contact information and adult signature

All applications must be signed by an adult member of the household. By signing the application, that household member is promising that all information has been truthfully and completely reported. Before completing this section, please also make sure you have read the statements on the back of the application.

A) Provide your contact information. Write your current mailing address in the fields provided, if this information is available. If you have no permanent address, that is olday. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.

B) Print and sign your name and write today's date. Print the name of the adult signing the application and that person si in the box "Signature of adult,"

Jefferson County Child Nutrition Program 2100 18th St. South Birmingham, AL. 35209

Share children's racial and ethnic identities (optional). On the back of the application, we ask you to share information about your children's race and the purpose of determining the State's compliance with Federal civil rights laws, and you response will not affect consideration of your application, and may be

Please return the application directly to your child's SCHOOL. DO NOT mail, fax, or email completed applications or questions about applications to the USDA Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights or your child's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals will be delayed.

USDA NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity* and sexual orientation*), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted 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; or

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

Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

*The enclosed "non discrimination" language herein was added pursuant to the May 5, 2022, USDA memorandum. However, although included as currently required for audit compliance by the USDA, the State of Alabama objects to its inclusion, applicability and the application of this language due to currently pending legal challenges in the matter of The State of Tennessee, et al. v. USDA, et al., Case No. 3:22-cv-00257, and may be subject to change or removal.