

FOR FASTER PROCESSING of Meal Applications, apply Online at www.tempeschools.org/mealapplication, it's paperless, easy and fast.

Nutrition Services is a major part of your child's school environment. All of our menus meet the Federal Child Nutrition Program guidelines. There is **no charge** for breakfast for all students. Students may buy lunch for **\$2.50 (Elementary) and \$2.75 (Middle School)**. Lunches are also available for free or at a reduced price. The cost of a reduced-price meal is **\$0.40** for lunch. We also offer several after school programs that provide nutritious snacks.

FEDERAL INCOME CHART
Effective from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

Household Size	Annual	Month	Week
1.....	\$22,311	\$1,860	\$430
2.....	\$30,044	\$2,504	\$578
3.....	\$37,777	\$3,149	\$727
4.....	\$45,510	\$3,793	\$876
5.....	\$53,243	\$4,437	\$1,024
6.....	\$60,976	\$5,082	\$1,173
7.....	\$68,709	\$5,726	\$1,322
8.....	\$76,442	\$6,371	\$1,471
Each additional member	+\$7,733	+\$645	+\$149

Application Must Be Filled Out Completely

Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart (see chart to the left).

Please note that the approval process may take up to **10 days**. We make every effort to process your application as soon as possible. **Note:** You may reapply later if your situation changes.

If your child was eligible for free or reduced price meals last school year that status stays with your child for the start of this school year. **However, that will expire.** Please return attached application **NO LATER than August 31th, 2017** to avoid any interruption in meal service. Thank you.

The Nutrition Services office determines if the family meets the criteria for this program... **A lunch or lunch money must be provided by the family until the application is processed and approved for new students.** Neither you nor your children need to be US Citizens to qualify for free or reduced price meals. You only need one application per family, NOT per child. If anyone in your household is participating in the SNAP program, providing their case # would make all household students eligible for free meals.

Payment Options: With My School Bucks, put money on your child's account from home. Visit www.myschoolbucks.com for more details. **Personal Checks:** Personal Checks should be made payable to the student's school. Please add student's name to the notation line on the check. Monday morning before class is the best time to make deposits into their accounts. If your child transfers to another school within the district or is promoted to the next grade, money is transferred automatically.

Verification/Confidentiality: School officials may check your eligibility at any time during the school year. You may be asked to send documentation to prove that your child should get free or reduced-price meals. The information you give on the application is confidential and will only be used to certify your child to receive free or reduced-price meals and to verify eligibility.

Privacy Act Statement: 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 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 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, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter 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; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider.

If you disagree with our final decision or have any questions please contact Christina Amparan at 480-642-1541x7608

FREE & REDUCED MEAL APPLICATION Q & A

1. YES, **YOU CAN APPLY ONLINE** at www.tempschools.org/mealapplication. ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE FILLED OUT COMPLETELY.
2. 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 Household 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 cafeteria manager.
3. WHO CAN GET FREE MEALS? All children in households receiving benefits from **SNAP**, the **FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations)** or **TANF**, can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household's gross income is within the free limits of the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.



If you have received a recent **NOTICE OF DIRECT CERTIFICATION** for free meals, **do not** complete the application. But **do** let the Cafeteria Manager know if any children in your household are not listed on the **Notice of Direct Certification** letter you received.

4. 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.
5. CAN HOMELESS, RUNAWAY, AND MIGRANT CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Yes, children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant qualify for free meals. If you haven't been told your child(ren) will get free meals, please call **Thamela Platero at 480-730-7482** to see if they qualify.
6. 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 Eligibility Income Chart, shown on this application.
7. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? Please read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. Call the **Nutrition Services office at 480-642-1541 ext.7608**, if you have questions.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes and we may also ask you to send documentation to support the information you provide.
11. 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 or reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
12. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION? You may contact our **Nutrition Services Dept, Christina Amparan, 480-642-1541 ext.7608, camparan@tempschools.org**.
13. 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 U.S. citizens to qualify for free or reduced price meals.
14. 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 living 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.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. MY SPOUSE IS DEPLOYED TO A COMBAT ZONE. IS THEIR COMBAT PAY COUNTED AS INCOME? No, if the combat pay is received in addition to their basic pay because of their deployment and it wasn't received before they were deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.
18. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or **call 1(800)352-8401**.

If you have other questions or need help, call 480-642-1541 ext.7608.