



Lynda M. Quick,
District Superintendent
and Chief Executive Officer

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To: Business Managers
From: Tom Potter *TP*
Date: August 23, 2017
Re: Annual News Release Concerning Free and Reduced
Lunch Prices for 2017-2018

Attached is the news release sent to the Wellsville Daily Reporter, Olean Times Herald, Salamanca Press, New York State Labor Department – Job Service, and the Allegany County Training Program Center, regarding the “Annual News Release” concerning free and reduced lunch prices for 2017-18. **Please keep on file in your Business Office for audit purposes, and forward a copy to your School Lunch Manager.**

Please call me at (716) 376-8250, if there are any questions concerning this information. Thank you.

Enclosure

Thomas C. Potter, Controller
Finance Division
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NEWS RELEASE

SCHOOL LUNCH

The Cattaraugus-Allegany Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) today announced a free and reduced price meal (Free Milk) policy for area school children in Allegany/Limestone, Andover, Belfast, Bolivar-Richburg, Cattaraugus/Little Valley, Cuba-Rushford, Ellicottville, Fillmore, Franklinville, Friendship, Genesee Valley, Hinsdale, Olean, Pioneer, Portville, Randolph Central, Salamanca, Scio, Wellsville, West Valley, and Whitesville. Local School officials have adopted the following family eligibility criteria to assist them in determining eligibility:

**2017-2018 INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES
FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS OR FREE MILK**

FREE ELIGIBILITY SCALE
Free Lunch, Breakfast, Milk

REDUCED PRICE ELIGIBILITY SCALE
Reduced Price Lunch, Breakfast

Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly	Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	15,678	1,307	654	603	302	1	22,311	1,860	930	859	430
2	21,112	1,760	880	812	406	2	30,044	2,504	1,252	1,156	578
3	26,546	2,213	1,107	1,021	511	3	37,777	3,149	1,575	1,453	727
4	31,980	2,665	1,333	1,230	615	4	45,510	3,793	1,897	1,751	876
5	37,414	3,118	1,559	1,439	720	5	53,243	4,437	2,219	2,048	1,024
6	42,848	3,571	1,786	1,648	824	6	60,976	5,082	2,541	2,346	1,173
7	48,282	4,024	2,012	1,857	929	7	68,709	5,726	2,863	2,643	1,322
8	53,716	4,477	2,239	2,066	1,033	8	76,442	6,371	3,186	2,941	1,471
Each Add'l Person ADD	5,434	453	227	209	105	Each Add'l Person ADD	7,733	645	323	298	149

News Release – School Lunch (continued)

SNAP/TANF/FDPIR Households: Households that currently include children who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) but who are not found during the Direct Certification Matching Process (DCMP) , or households that currently receive Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) must complete an application listing the child's name, a valid SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR case number and the signature of an adult household member. Eligibility for free meal benefits based on participation in SNAP, TANF or FDPIR is extended to all children in the household. When known to the School Food Authority, households will be notified of their children's eligibility for free meals based on their participation in the SNAP, TANF or the FDPIR programs.

Other Source Categorical Eligibility: When known to the School food Authority, households will be notified of any child's eligibility for free meals based on the individual child's designation as Other Source Categorically Eligible, as defined by law. Children are determined Other Source Categorically Eligible if they are Homeless, Migrant, Runaway, a foster child, or Enrolled in Head Start or an eligible pre-kindergarten program.

If children or households receive benefits under Assistance Programs or Other Source Categorically Eligible Programs and are not listed on the notice of eligibility and are not notified by the School Food Authority of their free meal benefits, the parent or guardian should contact the school or should submit an income application.

Other Households: Households with income the same or below the amount of money listed above for their family size may be eligible for and are urged to apply for free and/or reduced price meals (or free milk). They may do so by completing the application sent home with the letter to parents. One application for all children in the household should be submitted. Additional copies are available at the principal's office in each school. Applications may be submitted any time during the school year to the reviewing official. Please contact the school with any questions regarding the application process.

Households notified of their children's eligibility must contact the School Food Authority if they choose to decline the free meal benefits. Households may apply for benefits at any time throughout the school year. Children of parents or guardians who become unemployed or experience a financial hardship mid-year may become eligible for free and reduced price meals or free milk at any point during the school year.

The information provided on the application will be confidential and will be used for determining eligibility. The names and eligibility status of participants may also be used for the allocation of funds to federal education programs such as Title I and National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), State health or State education programs, provided the State agency or local education agency administers the programs, and for federal, State or local means-tested nutrition programs with eligibility standards comparable to the NSLP. Eligibility information may also be released to programs authorized under the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) or the Child Nutrition Act (CNA). The release of information to any program or entity not specifically authorized by the NSLA will require a written consent statement from the parent or guardian.

The School Food Authority does, however, have the right to verify at any time during the school year the information on the application. If a parent does not give the school this information, the child/children will no longer be able to receive free or reduced price meals (free milk).

Foster children may also be eligible for free meals benefits. A separate application for a foster child is no longer necessary. Foster children may be listed on the application as a member of the family where they reside. They must include the foster child's name and personal use income.

Under the provisions of the policy, the designated official will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with the ruling of the designated official, he/she may make a request either orally or in writing for a hearing to appeal the decision. Each district has a staff member designated as a hearing officer. Hearing procedures are outlined in the policy. However, prior to initiating the hearing procedure, the parent or School Food Authority may request a conference to provide an opportunity for the parent and official to discuss the situation, present information, and obtain an explanation of the data submitted in the application or the decisions rendered. The request for a conference shall not in any way prejudice or diminish the right to a fair hearing.

Only complete applications can be approved. This includes complete and accurate information regarding: the SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR case number; the names of all household members; on an income application, the last four digits of the social security number of the person who signs the form or an indication that the adult does not have one, and the amount and source of income received by each household member. In addition, the parent or guardian must sign the application form, certifying the information is true and correct.

Non-discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

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) 609-7442; or
- (3) E-mail: program.intake@usda.gov

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