

## Great Hearts Texas

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. *Great Hearts* offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$2.00; lunch costs \$4.00. **Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals.** Reduced-price is *.30 cents* for breakfast and *.40 cents* for lunch. If you received a notification letter that a child is directly certified for free or reduced-price meals, do not complete an application. Let the school know if any children in the household attending school are not listed in the letter.

The questions and answers that follow and attached directions provide additional information on how to complete the application. Complete only one application for all the students in the household and return the completed application to the office Manager of the Great Hearts School. If you have questions about applying for free or reduced-price meals, contact *the Office Manager of the Great Hearts School*.

1. **Who Can Get Free Meals?**

- *Income*—Children can get free or reduced-price meals if a household's gross income is within the limits described in the *Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines*.
- *Special Assistance Program Participants*—Children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Food Distribution Program for Households on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), are eligible for free meals.
- *Foster*—Foster children who are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- *Head Start, Early Head Start, and Even Start*—Children participating in these programs are eligible for free meals.
- *Homeless, Runaway, and Migrant*—Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant qualify for free meals. If you haven't been told about a child's status as homeless, runaway, or migrant or you feel a child may qualify for one of these programs, please call or email Alexis Villarreal, 210-888-9475, [alexis.villarreal@greatheartstx.org](mailto:alexis.villarreal@greatheartstx.org)
- *WIC Recipient*—Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

2. **What If I Disagree With the School's Decision About My Application?** Talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to Vickie Simpson, 210-888-9475, [alexis.villarreal@greatheartstx.org](mailto:alexis.villarreal@greatheartstx.org).

3. **My Child's Application Was Approved Last Year. Do I Need To Fill Out A New One?** Yes. An application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. Send in a new application unless the school has told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.

4. **If I Don't Qualify Now, May I Apply Later?** Yes. Apply at any time during the school year. A child 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.
5. **What If My Income Is Not Always the Same?** List the amount normally received. If a household member lost a job or had hours/wages reduced, use current income.
6. **We Are in The Military. Do We Report Our Income Differently?** Basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. Any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, or Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance payments count as income. If housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include the housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is excluded from income.
7. **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.
8. **Will Application Information Be Checked?** Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the reported household income.
9. **My Family Needs More Help. Are There Other Programs We Might Apply For?** To find out how to apply for other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or 2-1-1.
10. **Can I Apply Online?** Yes! The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit [www.mymealtime.com](http://www.mymealtime.com) to begin or to learn more about the online application process. Contact Alexis Villarreal, 210-888-9475 if you have questions about the online application.

11. Please find Income Eligibility Guidelines for the 19-20 school year below:

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES											
Effective from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020											
HOUSEHOLD SIZE	FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES ANNUAL	REDUCED PRICE MEALS - 185 %					FREE MEALS - 130 %				
		ANNUAL	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY
<b>48 CONTIGUOUS STATES, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, GUAM, AND TERRITORIES</b>											
1 .....	12,490	23,107	1,926	963	889	445	16,237	1,354	677	625	313
2 .....	16,910	31,284	2,607	1,304	1,204	602	21,983	1,832	916	846	423
3 .....	21,330	39,461	3,289	1,645	1,518	759	27,729	2,311	1,156	1,067	534
4 .....	25,750	47,638	3,970	1,985	1,833	917	33,475	2,790	1,395	1,288	644
5 .....	30,170	55,815	4,652	2,326	2,147	1,074	39,221	3,269	1,635	1,509	755
6 .....	34,590	63,992	5,333	2,667	2,462	1,231	44,967	3,748	1,874	1,730	865
7 .....	39,010	72,169	6,015	3,008	2,776	1,388	50,713	4,227	2,114	1,951	976
8 .....	43,430	80,346	6,696	3,348	3,091	1,546	56,459	4,705	2,353	2,172	1,086
<b>For each add'l family member, add</b>	<b>4,420</b>	<b>8,177</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>5,746</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>ALASKA</b>											
1 .....	15,600	28,860	2,405	1,203	1,110	555	20,280	1,690	845	780	390
2 .....	21,130	39,091	3,258	1,629	1,504	752	27,469	2,290	1,145	1,057	529
3 .....	26,660	49,321	4,111	2,056	1,897	949	34,658	2,889	1,445	1,333	667
4 .....	32,190	59,552	4,963	2,482	2,291	1,146	41,847	3,488	1,744	1,610	805
5 .....	37,720	69,782	5,816	2,908	2,684	1,342	49,036	4,087	2,044	1,886	943
6 .....	43,250	80,013	6,668	3,334	3,078	1,539	56,225	4,686	2,343	2,163	1,082
7 .....	48,780	90,243	7,521	3,761	3,471	1,736	63,414	5,285	2,643	2,439	1,220
8 .....	54,310	100,474	8,373	4,187	3,865	1,933	70,603	5,884	2,942	2,716	1,358
<b>For each add'l family member, add</b>	<b>5,530</b>	<b>10,231</b>	<b>853</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>7,189</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>HAWAII</b>											
1 .....	14,380	26,603	2,217	1,109	1,024	512	18,694	1,558	779	719	360
2 .....	19,460	36,001	3,001	1,501	1,385	693	25,298	2,109	1,055	973	487
3 .....	24,540	45,399	3,784	1,892	1,747	874	31,902	2,659	1,330	1,227	614
4 .....	29,620	54,797	4,567	2,284	2,108	1,054	38,506	3,209	1,605	1,481	741
5 .....	34,700	64,195	5,350	2,675	2,470	1,235	45,110	3,760	1,880	1,735	868
6 .....	39,780	73,593	6,133	3,067	2,831	1,416	51,714	4,310	2,155	1,989	995
7 .....	44,860	82,991	6,916	3,458	3,192	1,596	58,318	4,860	2,430	2,243	1,122
8 .....	49,940	92,389	7,700	3,850	3,554	1,777	64,922	5,411	2,706	2,497	1,249
<b>For each add'l family member, add</b>	<b>5,080</b>	<b>9,398</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>6,604</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>127</b>

If you have other questions or need help, call *the Office Manager of the Great Hearts School*.

Sincerely,

*Alexis Villarreal, alexis.villarreal@greatheartstx.org*

Letter for 2019-2020 Household Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals