

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 your respective Great Hearts Academy's front office. If you have questions about applying for free or reduced-price meals, contact the front office of your respective Great Hearts Academy.

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 April Hufty, 210-888-9475, [april.hufty@greatheartstx.org](mailto:april.hufty@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 April Hufty, 210-888-9475, [april.hufty@greatheartstx.org](mailto:april.hufty@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 April Hufty, 210-888-9475 if you have questions about the online application.

11. Please find Income Eligibility Guidelines for the 20-21 school year below:

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Effective from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES	REDUCED PRICE MEALS - 185 %					FREE MEALS - 130 %				
	ANNUAL	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 .....	12,760	23,606	1,968	984	908	454	16,588	1,383	692	638	319
2 .....	17,240	31,894	2,658	1,329	1,227	614	22,412	1,868	934	862	431
3 .....	21,720	40,182	3,349	1,675	1,546	773	28,236	2,353	1,177	1,086	543
4 .....	26,200	48,470	4,040	2,020	1,865	933	34,060	2,839	1,420	1,310	655
5 .....	30,680	56,758	4,730	2,365	2,183	1,092	39,884	3,324	1,662	1,534	767
6 .....	35,160	65,046	5,421	2,711	2,502	1,251	45,708	3,809	1,905	1,758	879
7 .....	39,640	73,334	6,112	3,056	2,821	1,411	51,532	4,295	2,148	1,982	991
8 .....	44,120	81,622	6,802	3,401	3,140	1,570	57,356	4,780	2,390	2,206	1,103
<b>For each add'l family member, add</b>	4,480	8,288	691	346	319	160	5,824	486	243	224	112
<b>ALASKA</b>											
1 .....	15,950	29,508	2,459	1,230	1,135	568	20,735	1,728	864	798	399
2 .....	21,550	39,868	3,323	1,662	1,534	767	28,015	2,335	1,168	1,078	539
3 .....	27,150	50,228	4,186	2,093	1,932	966	35,295	2,942	1,471	1,358	679
4 .....	32,750	60,588	5,049	2,525	2,331	1,166	42,575	3,548	1,774	1,638	819
5 .....	38,350	70,948	5,913	2,957	2,729	1,365	49,855	4,155	2,078	1,918	959
6 .....	43,950	81,308	6,776	3,388	3,128	1,564	57,135	4,762	2,381	2,198	1,099
7 .....	49,550	91,668	7,639	3,820	3,526	1,763	64,415	5,368	2,684	2,478	1,239
8 .....	55,150	102,028	8,503	4,252	3,925	1,963	71,695	5,975	2,988	2,758	1,379
<b>For each add'l family member, add</b>	5,600	10,360	864	432	399	200	7,280	607	304	280	140
<b>HAWAII</b>											
1 .....	14,680	27,158	2,264	1,132	1,045	523	19,084	1,591	796	734	367
2 .....	19,830	36,686	3,058	1,529	1,411	706	25,779	2,149	1,075	992	496
3 .....	24,980	46,213	3,852	1,926	1,778	889	32,474	2,707	1,354	1,249	625
4 .....	30,130	55,741	4,646	2,323	2,144	1,072	39,169	3,265	1,633	1,507	754
5 .....	35,280	65,268	5,439	2,720	2,511	1,256	45,864	3,822	1,911	1,764	882
6 .....	40,430	74,796	6,233	3,117	2,877	1,439	52,559	4,380	2,190	2,022	1,011
7 .....	45,580	84,323	7,027	3,514	3,244	1,622	59,254	4,938	2,469	2,279	1,140
8 .....	50,730	93,851	7,821	3,911	3,610	1,805	65,949	5,496	2,748	2,537	1,269
<b>For each add'l family member, add</b>	5,150	9,528	794	397	367	184	6,695	558	279	258	129

If you have other questions or need help, call *your respective Great Hearts Academy*.

Sincerely,

April Hufty, [april.hufty@greatheartstx.org](mailto:april.hufty@greatheartstx.org)

Letter for 2020-2021 Household Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals

April 29, 2020