

Free and Reduced-Price Meals

Blue Valley School District has announced its 2019-2020 school year policy for providing Free and Reduced price meals for students served under the Child Nutrition Program.

To receive Child Nutrition Program benefits, a household must have a Gross income that does not exceed the amount shown below for appropriate household size

Federal Eligibility Income Chart for school year 2019-2020			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	23,107	1,926	445
2	31,284	2,607	602
3	39,461	3,289	759
4	47,638	3,970	917
5	55,815	4,652	1,074
6	63,992	5,333	1,231
7	72,169	6,015	1,388
8	80,346	6,696	1,546
Each additional person	8,177	682	158

Blue Valley families planning to apply for Free and Reduced meal benefits may do so online through EZMealApp.com. While families planning to apply for meal benefits this year are encouraged to do so online; paper applications will also be available for eligible families on the District website, at the Food and Nutrition Services office (14950 Metcalf Overland Park, KS 66223) and at all Blue Valley schools. Families may request an application be mailed directly to their home by contacting the Food and Nutrition Services office at (913) 239-4106. The Free and Reduced Meal Program is an annual program and a new application is required each school year.

Households receiving Food Assistance (FA or SNAP) or Temporary Assistance to Families (TAF or TANF) will be notified that their children will be provided free benefits unless the household notifies the school that it chooses to decline benefits. Households receiving assistance under these programs should submit an application only if they are not notified of their eligibility by September 27, 2019. If a household receiving FA, SNAP, TAF, TANF or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) completes an application, the children's names, the FA, SNAP, TAF, TANF or FDPIR case number, and the signature of an adult household member must be provided.

Participants in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) may be eligible for reduced price or free benefits. Households with WIC participants should complete an application as described above.

Households with children who are enrolled in the Head Start or Migrant Education Program or who are considered homeless or runaway by the school district's homeless liaison should contact the school for assistance in receiving benefits.

Foster children who are under the legal responsibility of a State child welfare agency or court, are eligible for free meals, regardless of income. The state must retain legal custody of a child. Households will be notified that the foster child(ren) will be provided free benefits unless the household notifies the school that it chooses to decline benefits. Free eligibility is NOT extended to other students in households with foster children, but households with a foster child(ren) can submit an application and list all household members including the foster child(ren). A foster family application could result in different eligibility for family members, such as the foster child(ren) free and the other students could be reduced, free or not eligible for benefits.

Households not receiving Food Assistance (FA or SNAP), Temporary Assistance to Families (TAF or TANF) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) apply for benefits by completing one application for all children in the household. The application must list names of everyone in the household; the amount of income each household member now receives; source of income; the last four digits of the Social Security number of the household member who signs the application or a statement that the household member does not possess one; and the signature of an adult household member certifying that the information provided is correct. The information is confidential and will be used only for the purpose of determining eligibility. The eligibility status may be verified at any time during the school year by school or other program officials.

Under provisions of the reduced price and free benefit policy, the Determining Official will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians who are dissatisfied with the ruling of the official may wish to discuss the decision with the Determining Official on an informal basis. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal may make a request either orally or in writing for a hearing on the decision. Contact the school district or private school for the name, address and phone number of the Hearing Official and information about the hearing procedures. If a household member becomes unemployed or if household size changes, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the child(ren) in the household eligible for reduced price or free benefits if the household income falls at or below the levels shown above. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, 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 the 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.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

The Blue Valley School District Food and Nutrition Services office has a copy of the policy for reduced price and free benefits which may be reviewed by any interested party.