

**Letter to Households
National School Lunch Program/School Breakfast Program**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Mt Baker School District offers healthy meals every school day. Elementary school breakfast costs \$1.50; lunch costs \$2.25 Secondary school breakfast costs \$1.50; lunch costs \$2.75. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is \$0.00 for breakfast and \$0.00 for lunch K-3 and \$0.40 for lunch for preschool and grades 4-12.

1. Do I need to fill out an application for each child? No. Complete one Free and Reduced Price School Meals 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:**

Mt. Baker School District, Food Services, P.O. Box 95, Deming, WA 98244.

2. Who can get free meals? Children in households getting Basic Food, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Food Distribution on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), and most foster children can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free price meals if your household income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines.

3. Can homeless, runaway and migrant children get free meals? Yes. Please call (360) 383-2012 to see if your child(ren) qualify.

4. 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 Income Chart, shown on this application.

5. Should I fill out an application if the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) has notified me saying my children are eligible for free meals? No. Call the LEA or individual school at (360) 383-2024 if you have questions.

6. 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.

7. Will the information I give be checked? Yes, we may ask you to send written proof, through the verification process.

8. If I don't qualify now, may I apply later? Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start getting Basic Food, TANF or other benefits. If you lose your job, your children may be able to get free or reduced price meals.

9. What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application? You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by writing to: **Dr. Gantman, Superintendent, Mt. Baker School District, P.O. Box 95, Deming, WA or by calling (360) 383-2000.**

10. 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 a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced price meals.

11. 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). You must include yourself and all children who live with you.

12. What if my income is not always the same? List the amount that you normally get. For example, if you normally get \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only got \$900, put down the average per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get it only sometimes.

13. We are in the military, do we include our housing allowance as income? If your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. All other allowances must be included in your gross income.

If you have other questions call **Terri Maleng Food Service Secretary at (360) 383-2065 or Karla Atwood Food Service Director (360) 383-2024**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in this program on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Sincerely,
Karla Atwood - Food Service Director
Mt. Baker School District