

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

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- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

CARSON CITY, NEVADA – August 7, 2008 – Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction, announced today the sponsorship of the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, and Kindergarten Special Milk Programs.

Pat Cook, Consultant for the Nevada Department of Education’s Office of Child Nutrition and School Health, stated” The following household size and income criteria will be used for determining eligibility of children to receive free or reduced priced meal benefits, or free milk. Children from families whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced priced meals and kindergartners who are eligible for free meals, but do not have access to meals receive free milk.”

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR FREE & REDUCED PRICE CATEGORIES
 (Effective from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009)

House- Hold Size	FREE MEALS						REDUCED PRICE MEALS				
	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly		Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	13,520	1,127	564	520	260		19,240	1,604	802	740	370
2	18,200	1,517	759	700	350		25,900	2,159	1,080	997	499
3	22,880	1,907	954	880	440		32,560	2,714	1,357	1,253	627
4	27,560	2,297	1,149	1,060	530		39,220	3,269	1,635	1,509	755
5	32,240	2,687	1,344	1,240	620		45,880	3,824	1,912	1,765	883
6	36,920	3,077	1,539	1,420	710		52,540	4,379	2,190	2,021	1,011
7	41,600	3,467	1,734	1,600	800		59,200	4,934	2,467	2,277	1,139
8	46,280	3,857	1,929	1,780	890		65,860	5,489	2,745	2,534	1,267
For Each Additional Family Member Add	4,680	390	195	180	90		6,660	555	278	257	129

The "Application for Free and Reduced Priced Meals" and the "Letter to Parents" are being sent to all homes of children who attend participating schools in the National School Lunch/School Breakfast Program (NSLP/SBP). Application forms and parent letters for free milk are also being sent to all homes of half-day kindergartners who attend participating schools of the Kindergarten Special Milk Program (KSMP). To

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apply for free or reduced priced meals, or free milk for kindergarten children, households should fill out the appropriate application form(s) and return it (them) to the school. For school officials to determine eligibility, the household must provide the child's name, the amount of income each person received, where the income was earned, the signature of an adult household member, and that adult's social security number or the word "NONE" if the adult does not have a social security number.

If a household receives Food Stamps, "Temporary Assistance for Needy Families" (TANF), or participates in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservation (FDPIR) for a child, that child is automatically eligible for free meals or free milk. If parents do not want these benefits, they will have the opportunity to decline. Households will receive a notice of the child's eligibility in the mail. If a notice is not received by September 30, 2008, an application should be submitted to the school. To apply, list the child's name, the Food Stamp or TANF case number, or FDPIR case number, and sign the application.

Homeless, migrant, and runaway students can get free school meals by contacting their school officials. Families that get WIC benefits may qualify for free or reduced priced meals and need to complete an application.

In certain cases, foster children are eligible for these benefits. If a family has foster children living with them and wish to apply for free and reduced priced meals or milk, they should complete an application.

The information provided on the application may be verified at any time during the school year by the school or other program officials.

The children of parents or guardians, who become unemployed, are eligible for free or reduced priced meals or free milk for half-day kindergartners, attending participating schools during the period of unemployment, provided that the loss of income causes the household income to fall at or below the levels shown above.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced priced policy, the determining official(s) designated by the school food authority, shall review applications and determine eligibility. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing, to the hearing official designated by the school food authority. (For specific information as to the name of the determining official and/or hearing official for a specific school or district, parents or guardians should contact the school(s) their children attend.)

If the family size or income changes, the family should contact the school to file a new application.

In accordance with federal law and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write the USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). “USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

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