

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need proper nutrition to learn. **Sunset Ridge and Middlefork Schools** offer healthy milk and/or meals every school day. Your child(ren) may qualify for free milk and/or meals. To apply for free milk and/or meals, use the Household Eligibility Application, which is enclosed. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. If you do not qualify for free milk and/or meals, the current prices are: Milk **[\$0.55]**; lunch **[\$3.25]**. Return the completed application to:

Terrie Simmons, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance, Sunset Ridge School District 29, 525 Sunset Ridge Road, Northfield, IL 60093.

Your children may qualify for free milk and/or meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines (Effective from July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012)					
Household Size	Free (130% Federal Poverty Guideline)				
	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	14,157	1,180	590	545	273
2	19,123	1,594	797	736	368
3	24,089	2,008	1,004	927	464
4	29,055	2,422	1,211	1,118	559
5	34,021	2,836	1,418	1,309	655
6	38,987	3,249	1,625	1,500	750
7	43,953	3,663	1,832	1,691	846
8	48,919	4,077	2,039	1,882	941
For each additional family member, add	4,966	414	207	191	96

1. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. Complete the application to apply for free milk and/or meals. Use one Household Eligibility Application for all students in your household per district. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to the school.
2. WHO CAN GET FREE MILK AND/OR MEALS? All children in households receiving benefits from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and/or are foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household's gross income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant also qualify for free meals. If you haven't been told your children will get free meals, please contact your school to see if your child(ren) qualifies.
3. A MEMBER OF MY HOUSEHOLD RECEIVED SNAP OR TANF BENEFITS. THE SCHOOL SENT A LETTER STATING THAT MY CHILD IS AUTOMATICALLY APPROVED FOR FREE MILK AND/OR MEALS BASED ON DIRECT CERTIFICATION. DO I NEED TO DO ANYTHING MORE TO ENSURE THAT MY CHILD RECIEVES FREE MILK AND/OR MEALS? No. You do not need to do anything more to receive free milk and/or meals for your child. If you have students not listed on the letter, contact the school immediately. If you do not wish to receive the free meals, you should follow the steps outlined in the letter from the school to notify school personnel immediately.
4. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT ANOTHER ONE? Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
5. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILD(REN) GET FREE MILK AND/OR MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free milk and/or meals. Please fill out the enclosed application.
6. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof.
7. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER? Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children 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.
8. 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 calling or writing to the person listed above.
9. 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 U.S. citizens to apply.
10. 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) who share income and expenses. You must include yourself and all children living with you. If you live with people who are economically independent (for example, people who you do not support, who do not share income with you or your children, and who pay a pro-rated share of expenses), do not include them.
11. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
12. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE INCLUDE OUR HOUSING ALLOWANCE AS INCOME? If you get an off-base housing allowance, it must be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income.
13. MY SPOUSE IS DEPLOYED TO A COMBAT ZONE. IS HER COMBAT PAY COUNTED AS INCOME? No, if the combat pay is received in addition to her basic pay because of her deployment and it wasn't received before she was deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.
14. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for SNAP, TANF or other assistance benefits, contact your local Department of Human Services office or call (800) 843-6154 (voice) or (800) 447-6404 (TTY).

Sincerely,

