

FLOWING WELLS USD SCHOOL YEAR 2023-2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Flowing Wells School District offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.00 at Elementary and \$1.25 at Junior High and High School; lunch costs \$2.75 at Elementary, \$3.00 at Junior High and \$3.25 at High School. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals. Reduced-price is \$0.30 for breakfast and \$0.40 for lunch. This packet includes a school meal application for free or reduced-price meal benefits, as well as application directions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

- 1. WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE MEALS?
 - a. All children in households receiving benefits from SNAP, FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations) or TANF can get free meals regardless of your income.
 - b. Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
 - c. Children participating in their school's Head Start Program are eligible for free meals.
 - d. Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
 - e. Children can get free or reduced-price meals if your household's gross income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced-price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

Federal Eligibility Income Chart for School Year 2023-2024				
Household Size	Yearly Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income	
1	\$26,1973	\$2,248	\$519	
2	\$36,482	\$3,041	\$702	
3	\$45,991	\$3,833	\$885	
4	\$55,500	\$4,625	\$1,068	
5	\$65,009	\$5,418	\$1,251	
6	\$74,518	\$6,210	\$1,434	
7	\$84,027	\$7,003	\$1,616	
8	\$93,538	\$7,795	\$1,799	
Each additional person:	+\$9,509	+\$793	+\$183	

- 2. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY? Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail Dr. Audrey Reff at 520-696-8804; audrey.reff@fwusd.org
- DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. Use 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: School Cafeteria Managers or Food Services Office located at
 4545 N. La Cholla Blvd., Tucson AZ 85705.
- 4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? No, but please read the letter you got carefully. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact **Mercy Ruiz at 520-696-8624; luz.ruiz@fwusd.org** immediately.
- 5. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? Yes! You are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application if you are able. The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit https://www.schoolcafe.com/FLOWINGWELLSUNIFIEDSD to begin.
- 6. 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 30 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. If you do not send in a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for meals.

- 7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILD(REN) GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC <u>may</u> be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please fill out an application.
- 8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
- 9. 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.
- 10. 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: DR. KIMBERLY PARKINSON, 1556 W. PRINCE RD., TUCSON AZ 85705, 520-696-8822.
- 11. 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. Our organization does not release information for immigration-related purposes in the usual course of operating the School Nutrition Programs.
- 12. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you <u>normally</u> 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.
- 13. WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT? Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will <u>also</u> be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you <u>meant</u> to do so.
- 14. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY? Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.
- 15. WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY? List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper and attach it to your application.
- 16. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for **SNAP** or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-855-777-8590.

If you have other questions or need help, call 520-696-8624.

Sincerely,

Carl Thompson
Director of Dining Services
Flowing Wells Unified School District

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Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted 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.

2023-2024 Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil). STEP 1 List ALL infants, children, and students up to and including grade 12 in your household (if more spaces are required for additional names, attach another sheet of paper) Migrant, Runaway Child's Last Name Child's First Name MI School Name Definition of Household Member: "Anyone who is living with you and shares income and expenses. even if not related. Children in Foster care all that and children who meet the definition of Homeless, Migrant or Runaway are eligible for free meals. Do any Household Members (including you) currently participate in one or more of the following assistance programs: SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR? Circle one: Yes / No If you answered YES > Write a case number here then go to STEP 4 (Do not complete STEP 3) If you answered NO > Complete STEP 3. Case Number: Write only one case number in this space. STEP 3 Report Income for ALL Household Members (Skip this step if you answered 'Yes' to STEP 2) A. Child Income How often? Child GROSS income Sometimes children in the household earn income. Please include the TOTAL GROSS income earned by all Children Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Month Monthly Are you unsure what Household Members listed in STEP 1 here. income to include here? B. All Adult Household Members (including yourself) Flip to the back of this List only the Adult Household Members (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. For each Household Member listed, if they do receive income, report total GROSS income (amount before taxes application and review the charts titled and deductions) for each source in whole dollars only. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0'. If you enter '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. "Sources How often? How often? of Income" for more How often? Name of Adult Household Members (First and Last) Public Assistance/ Pensions/Retirement/ information. Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Month Monthly Child Support/Alimony Earnings from Work Bi-Weekly 2x Month Monthly All Other Income Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Month Monthly Weekly The "Sources of Income for Children" chart will help you with the Child Income Section. The "Sources of Income for Adults" chart will help you with the Adult Household Members Income Section. Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of C. Total Household Members Х Χ Χ Check if no SSN | Primary Wage Earner or Other Adult Household Member (Children and Adults) STEP 4 Contact information and adult signature Mail Completed Form to: Flowing Wells USD, Food Services, 4545 N. La Cholla, Tucson, AZ 85705 "I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in

"I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal funds, and that school officials may verify (check) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws."

Signature of adult completing the form

Today's date

Printed name of adult completing the form

Daytime Phone and Email (optional)

Street Address (if available)

Apt # City State Zip

	OFFICE USE ONLY	□Error Prone			
Eligibility: Free Reduced Denied		22.10.110.10			
Determining Official's Signature:	Date:				
□Case # Application □Foster Application □Directly Certified: Date of Disregard: □Income Application □Homeless/Migrant/Runaway Household Size: Total Income: Per: □Week □Bi-Weekly (Every 2 Weeks) □2x Month □Monthly □Annual					
☐ Selected For Verification: Confirming Official	's Signature:	Date:			
Follow-Up Official's Signature:	Date:				

Sources of Income for Children			
Type of Income	Examples		
Earnings from work	A child has a job where they earn a salary or wages.		
Social Security -Disability payments	A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits.		
-Survivor Benefits	A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased and their child receives social security benefits.		
Income from persons outside the household	A friend or extended family member <u>regularly</u> gives a child spending money.		
Income from any other source	A child receives income from a private pension fund, annuity or trust.		

Sources of Income for Adults				
Earnings from Work Public Assistance/ Alimony/Child Support		Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income		
- Salary, wages, cash bonuses	- Unemployment benefits	- Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits)		
- Net income from self- employment (farm or business)	- Workers Compensation - Supplemental Security	- Private Pensions or disability		
If you are in the U.S. Military:	Income (SSI)	- Regular income from trusts or estates		
- Basic pay and cash bonuses (do not include combat pay,	- Cash Assistance from State or local	- Annuities		
FSSA, or privatized housing allowances)	government	- Investment Income		
-Allowances for off-base	- Alimony payments	- Earned Interest		
housing, food and clothing	- Child support payments	- Rental Income		
	- Veteran's benefits - Strike benefits	- Regular cash payments from outside household		

OPTIONAL Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities

We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals.

Ethnicity (check one): Hispanic or Latino	☐ Not Hispanic or Latino)	
Race (check one or more):		
☐ American Indian or A	laskan Native Asian	☐ Black or African American	☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We MAY share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.