

LETTER TO HOUSEHOLD FREE & REDUCED CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025

*For translated materials, go to https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/translated-applications

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Blue Valley School District offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.55 for elementary students and \$1.65 for secondary students; lunch costs \$2.85 for elementary students and \$3.00 for secondary students. **Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals.** Reduced price meals are \$0.30 for breakfast and \$0.40 for lunch.

An application for free or reduced price meal benefits and a set of detailed instructions is included with this letter or available online at www.bluevalleyk12.org/nutrition. Contact Bobbi Valverde at (913) 239-4106, bvalverde@bluevalleyk12.org, with questions or to request an application be sent. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from Food Assistance (FA), the Food Distribution
 Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) or Temporary Assistance for Families (TAF) are eligible
 for free meals.
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- Children may receive free or reduced price meals based on certain Medicaid benefits or if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household gross income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	27,861	2,322	536
2	37,814	3,152	728
3	47,767	3,981	919
4	57,720	4,810	1,110
5	67,673	5,640	1,302
6	77,626	6,469	1,493
7	87,579	7,299	1,685
8	97,532	8,128	1,876
Cach additional person:	9,953	830	192

- 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 the Homeless Liaison and Migrant Coordinator: Matt Ortman at (913) 239-4000 mortman@bluevalleyk12.org.
- 3. 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: Bobbi Valverde, Accounting Specialist, 14950 Metcalf Ave. Overland Park, KS 66223; (913) 239-4106 bvalverde@bluevalleyk12.org.
- 4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? No, but please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact Bobbi Valverde, Accounting Specialist, 14950 Metcalf Ave. Overland Park, KS 66223; (913) 239-4106 byalverde@bluevalleyk12.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://linqconnect.com/ to begin or to learn more about the online application process. Contact Bobbi Valverde, Accounting Specialist, 14950 Metcalf Ave. Overland Park, KS 66223 (913) 239-4106, bvalverde@bluevalleyk12.org if you have any questions about the online application.
- 6. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? Yes!! Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year, through September 25, 2024. 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 RECEIVE WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC <u>may</u> be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please send in 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: Jason Gilliam, Director of Business Operations, 14950 Metcalf Ave. Overland Park, KS 66223, (913) 239-4000, JGilliam@bluevalleyk12.org.
- 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.
- 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. Contact Bobbi Valverde, Accounting Specialist, 14950 Metcalf Ave. Overland Park, KS 66223; (913) 239-4106 bvalverde@bluevalleyk12.org to receive a second application.
- 16. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for Food Assistance (FA) or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-888-369-4777.

If you have other questions or need help, call (913) 239-4062.

Sincerely,

Charles Rathbun

Director of Food & Nutrition Services

Charles Rathbun

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Letter to Household - 7/2024

2024-2025 APPLICATION PACKET FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

How to Apply for Free and Reduced Price School Meals.

Please use these instructions to help you fill out the application for free or reduced price school meals. You only need to submit one application per household, even if your children attend more than one school in Blue Valley School District. The application must be filled out completely to certify your children for free or reduced price school meals. Please follow these instructions in order! Each step of the instructions is the same as the steps on your application. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please contact Bobbi Valverde, Accounting Specialist: phone 913-239-4106, email byalverde@bluevalleyk12.org.

PLEASE USE A PEN (NOT A PENCIL) WHEN FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION AND DO YOUR BEST TO PRINT CLEARLY.

STEP 1: LIST ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS WHO ARE INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND STUDENTS UP TO AND INCLUDING GRADE 12

Tell us how many infants, children, and school students live in your household. They do NOT have to be related to you to be a part of your household. **Who should I list here?** When filling out this section, please include ALL members in your household who are:

- Children age 18 or under AND are supported with the household's income;
- In your care under a foster arrangement, or qualify as homeless, migrant, or runaway youth;
- Students attending Blue Valley School District, regardless of age.

A) List each child's name. Print each child's name. Use one line of the application for each child. If there are more children present than lines on the application, attach a second piece of paper with all required information for the additional children.

B) Is the child a student at <Blue Valley School District? Mark 'Yes' or 'No' under the column titled "Student" to tell us which children attend Blue Valley School District. If you marked 'Yes,' write the name of the school and the grade level of the student in the 'School' and 'Grade' columns to the right.

C) Do you have any foster children? If any children listed are foster children, mark the "Foster Child" box next to the child's name. If you are ONLY applying for foster children, after finishing STEP 1, go to STEP 4. Foster children who live with you may count as members of your household and should be listed on your application. If you are applying for both foster and non-foster children, go to step 3.

D) Are any children homeless, migrant, or runaway? If you believe any child listed in this section meets this description, mark the "Homeless, Migrant, Runaway" box next to the child's name and complete all steps of the application.

STEP 2: DO ANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN FOOD ASSISTANCE, TAF, OR FDPIR?

If anyone in your household (including you) currently participates in one or more of the assistance programs listed below, your children are eligible for free school meals:

- Food Assistance (FA).
- Temporary Assistance for Families (TAF).

The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).

- A) If no one in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:
- Leave STEP 2 blank and go to STEP 3.
- B) If anyone in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:
- Write a case number for FA, TAF, or FDPIR. You only need to provide one case number. If you participate in one of these programs and do not know your case number, contact Kansas Department for Children and Families.
- Go to STEP 4.

STEP 3: REPORT INCOME FOR ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

How do I report my income?

- Use the charts titled "Sources of Income for Adults" and "Sources of Income for Children", printed on the back side of the application form to determine if your household has income to report.
- Report all amounts in GROSS INCOME ONLY. Report all income in whole dollars. Do not include cents.
 - Gross income is the total income received before taxes.
 - o Many people think of income as the amount they "take home" and not the total, "gross" amount. Make sure that the income you report on this application has NOT been reduced to pay for taxes, insurance premiums, or any other amounts taken from your pay.
- Write a "0" in any fields where there is no income to report. Any income fields left empty or blank will also be counted as a zero. If you write '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. If local officials suspect that your household income was reported incorrectly, your application will be investigated.
- Mark how often each type of income is received using the check boxes to the right of each field.

3.A. REPORT INCOME EARNED BY CHILDREN

A) Report all income earned or received by children. Report the combined gross income for ALL children listed in STEP 1 in your household in the box marked "Child Income." Only count foster children's income if you are applying for them together with the rest of your household.

What is Child Income? Child income is money received from outside your household that is paid DIRECTLY to your children. Many households do not have any child income.

3.B REPORT INCOME EARNED BY ADULTS

Who should I list here?

- When filling out this section, please include ALL adult members in your household who are living with you and share income and expenses, even if they are not related and even if they do not receive income of their own.
- Do NOT include:
 - o People who live with you but are not supported by your household's income AND do not contribute income to your household.
 - o Infants, Children and students already listed in STEP 1.
- B) List adult household members' names. Print the name of each household member in the boxes marked "Names of Adult Household Members (First and Last)." Do not list any household members you listed in STEP 1. If a child listed in STEP 1 has income, follow the instructions in STEP 3, part A.
- E) Report income from
 pensions/retirement/all other income.
 Report all income that applies in the
 "Pensions/Retirement/ All Other
 Income" field on the application.
- **C)** Report earnings from work. Report all income from work in the "Earnings from Work" field on the application. This is usually the money received from working at jobs. If you are a self-employed business or farm owner, you will report your net income. See detailed instructions on the back of the application.
- What if I am self-employed? Report income from that work as a net amount. This is calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of your business from its gross receipts or revenue.
- F) Report total household size. Enter the total number of household members in the field "Total Household Members (Children and Adults)." This number MUST be equal to the number of household members listed in STEP 1 and STEP 3. If there are any members of your household that you have not listed on the application, go back and add them. It is very important to list all household members, as the size of your household affects your eligibility for free and reduced price meals.
- D) Report income from public assistance/child support/alimony. Report all income that applies in the "Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony" field on the application. Do not report the cash value of any public assistance benefits NOT listed on the chart. If income is received from child support or alimony, only report court-ordered payments. Informal but regular payments should be reported as "other" income in the next part.
- G) Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number. An adult household member must enter the last four digits of their Social Security Number in the space provided. You are eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social Security Number. If no adult household members have a Social Security Number, leave this space blank and mark the box to the right labeled "Check if no SSN."

STEP 4: CONTACT INFORMATION AND ADULT SIGNATURE

All applications must be signed by an adult member of the household. By signing the application, that household member is promising that all information has been truthfully and completely reported. Before completing this section, please also make sure you have read the privacy and civil rights statements on the back of the application.

- A) Provide your contact information. Write your current address in the fields provided if this information is available. If you have no permanent address, this does not make your children ineligible for free or reduced price school meals. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.
- B) Print and sign your name and write today's date. Print the name of the adult signing the application and that person signs in the box "Signature of adult."
- C) Mail Completed Form to: Blue Valley School District 14950 Metcalf Ave, Overland Park, KS 66223
- D) Share children's racial and ethnic identities (optional). On the back of the application, we ask you to share information about your children's race and ethnicity. This field is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price school meals.

2024-2025 Household Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals Complete one application per household (use a pen not a pencil).

Apply online at: https://linqconnect.com

Definition of Household	Child's First Name	MI	Child's Last	Name	9			Scl	nool						Grade		Stud Yes	lent? No		Foste Child	d Mig	neless, grant, naway
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Sou	rces of Income for Children
Sources of Child Income	Example(s)
Earnings from work	 A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages
Social Security Disability Payments Survivor's Benefits	A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits A Parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits
Income from person outside the household	 A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money
Income from any other source	 A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust

Income from Self Employment: Self-employed persons may use income tax records for the preceding calendar year as a base to project the current year's net income, unless the current monthly income provides a more accurate measure. Report income derived from the business venture less operating costs incurred in the generation of that income. Deductions for personal expenses such as interest on home payments, medical expenses, and other similar non-business deductions are not allowed in reducing gross business income. Additional income from other kinds of employment must be treated as separate and apart from the income generated or lost from your business venture. For example, if you operated a business at a net loss, but held additional employment for which a salary was received, the income for purposes of applying for reduced price or free meals would be the income from the salary only. The loss from the business cannot be deducted from a positive income earned in other employment.

Sources of Income for Adults Unemployment benefits · Social Security (including railroad · Salary, wages, cash retirement and black lung benefits) bonuses · Worker's compensation · Net income from self- Supplemental · Private pensions or disability benefits employment (farm or Security Income (SSI) · Regular income from trusts or estates business · Cash assistance from Annuities If you are in the U.S. Military: State or local government · Investment income · Basic pay and cash bonuses (do Alimony payments · Earned interest NOT include combat pay, FSSA or Child support payments · Rental income privatized housing allowances) · Veteran's benefits · Regular cash payments from outside Allowances for off-base · Strike benefits household housing, food, and clothing

For purposes of this application, it is not possible to report a negative income from any business venture. The least income possible is zero (no income). The necessary information for arriving at allowable income from private business operation may be taken from your most recent U.S. Individual Income Tax Return - Form 1040, Schedule 1. Add together the amounts reported on the following lines:

1040, Line 7 \$ Capital Gain or (Loss) Schedule 1, Line 4 \$ Other Gains or (Losses)	
Schedule 1, Line 4 \$ Other Gains or (Losses)	
Schedule 1, Line 5 \$ Rental real estate, royalties, partnerships, S corporations, trusts, etc.	
Schedule 1, Line 6 \$ Farm Income or (Loss)	
TOTAL \$ Gross Annual Income Before Any Deductions.	
Computed Monthly Income \$ Gross Annual Income ÷ 12 = Computed Monthly Income. Report in Step	р3.

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. If you do not select race or ethnicity, one will be selected for you based on visual observation.

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 primary wage earner or other adult household member who signs the application. The social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Food Assistance (FA) Temporary Assistance for Families (TAF) 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.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

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/ad-3027.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; or

(2) fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email:

program.intake@usda.gov
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Only use this address if you are filing a complaint of discrimination. Do not mail applications to this address.

Do not fill out	For School Use Only - Annual Income Conversion:	Weekly x 52, Bi-Weekl	ly x 26, Twice a Mo	onth x 24, Monthly x 12

☐ Total Income: \$ ☐ Categorical Eligibility (FA, TAF, FI	How Often (Circle One): W BW 2M M Multiple=Yearly OPIR, Foster)	Household Size:	Eligibility:
Determining Official's Signature:		Approval/Denial Date:	Notification Date:
Processor's Initials:	Confirming Official's Signature (ONLY for applications to	o be verified):	Review Date:

2024/2025 Consent for Disclosure | USD 229 Blue Valley School District Sharing Information with Other Programs

Dear Parent/Guardian:

You do not have to sign or send in this form to get reduced price or free Child Nutrition Program meal benefits for your children, and it will not affect eligibility for or participation in the Child Nutrition Programs.

To save you time and effort, information about your children's eligibility for reduced price or free Child Nutrition Program benefits may be shared with other programs for which your children may qualify. For the programs listed below, we must have your permission to share your information even if your students have already been approved for free meals for the 2024-2025 school year through direct certification.

2024-2025 school year through direct c	ertification.	
	my children's eligibility for Child Nutritio responsible for full payment of all schoo	n Program benefits shared with any of these I and bus registration fees.
YES, I DO want school officials to share in or waived fees) only with the prog	nformation about my children's eligibility grams I have checked below.	for Child Nutrition Program benefits (reduced
☐ <u>Durham – transportation/bus ser</u>	vice (as per Blue Valley School District	guidelines)
	ing Resource, Activity Programming, HS eer Model, College Prep (HS only - redu	S Course Fees (not including project fees), ced fee)
Please fill out the names of your children a checked above. If you have more than 4 of		ation will be shared only with the programs you consent for Disclosure" form.
Child's Name:	School:	
Your information will not be shared with the pro Child's Name	ograms you indicated below. School	
Learning Resource □ No Middle School Explo □ No	Activity Programming ☐ No Preschool Peer Model ☐ No	High School Course Fees ☐ No College Prep ☐ No
Child's Name	School	
Learning Resource □ No Middle School Explo □ No	Activity Programming ☐ No Preschool Peer Model ☐ No	High School Course Fees □ No College Prep □ No
Child's Name	School_	12 Prof
Learning Resource □ No	Activity Programming ☐ No	High School Course Fees □ No
Middle School Explo □ No	Preschool Peer Model □ No	College Prep □ No
Child's Name	School	
Learning Resource □ No Middle School Explo □ No	Activity Programming ☐ No Preschool Peer Model ☐ No	High School Course Fees □ No College Prep □ No
Middle Scribbi Explo - No	Trescribor Feel Model 🗆 No	College Flep 🗆 No
Signature of Parent/Guardian:		Date:
Parent/Guardian Printed Name:		
Address:		

For full school year benefits, return this form by October 10, 2024 to: USD 229 Blue Valley Food & Nutrition Services, Attn: Bobbi Valverde, 14950 Metcalf Ave, Overland Park, KS 66223 or email: bvalverde@bluevalleyk12.org

For more information, you may call Charles Rathbun, Director of Food & Nutrition Services (913) 239-4106

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Student Lunch:

To make a meal at Lunch

Students must choose at least 1/2 cup of fruit and/or vegetable plus a minimum of two of the three food groups provided (grains, protein and dairy). A 4oz carton of fruit juice can count as 1/2 cup of fruit.

Student Breakfast:

To make a meal at Breakfast

Students must choose 1/2 cup of fruit or fruit juice plus a minimum of two of the three food groups provided (grains, protein and dairy).

If a student does not make the required selections that constitute a meal, the items will be charged at a la carte prices

Reduced Meal Prices for the current school year are:

Breakfast \$.30

Lunch \$.40

Free & Reduced Meal Benefits

Seconds and A la carte items are NOT included

in the Free & Reduced Meal Benefits

If you do not want your student to purchase these additional items, please contact Food & Nutrition Services to restrict your student's account to allow just the Free or Reduced price meal.

Blue Valley Food & Nutrition Services (913) 239-4106

Go to www.bluevalleyk12.org

for more information on:
School Menus
A la Carte Prices
Nutritional Information

Go to https://lingconnect.com/

To add money
Review purchase history
Transfer funds between siblings

