

# Festus Public Schools

## REORGANIZED SCHOOL DISTRICT R-VI

1515 Mid-Meadow Lane Festus, Missouri 63028 Telephone: 636/937-4920

Fax: 636/937-8525

Dr. Link Luttrell  
Superintendent

Mr. Nathan Holder  
Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Nicki Ruess  
Assistant Superintendent

July 6, 2020

### LETTER TO PARENTS

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM/SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **The Festus R-VI School District** offers healthy meals every school day. For students in grades in K-12, the cost of lunch is **\$2.60** while a breakfast price is **\$1.30** for students in grades K-3 and **\$1.35** for students in grades 4 – 12. Your child(ren) may qualify for free or for reduced price meals. Reduced lunch price for students in grades K – 12 is **\$0.40** and reduced breakfast price is **\$0.20** cents.

Household Size	Annually	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$23,606	\$1,968	\$454
2	31,894	2,658	614
3	40,182	3,349	773
4	48,470	4,040	933
5	56,758	4,730	1,092
6	65,046	5,421	1,251
7	73,334	6,112	1,411
8	81,622	6,802	1,570
For each add'l person add	+ \$8,288	+ \$691	+ \$160

- 1. DO I NEED TO COMPLETE 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 provide all required information. Return the completed application to your child's building office or classroom teacher.
- 2. WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FREE MEALS?** *All children in households getting Food Stamps, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations or Temporary Assistance/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), are eligible for free meals. Also, your child(ren) can get free meals if your household income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.*
- 3. CAN FOSTER CHILDREN RECEIVE FREE MEALS?** *Yes, foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are eligible for free meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for free meals regardless of income.*
- 4. CAN HOMELESS, RUNAWAY AND MIGRANT CHILDREN RECEIVE FREE MEALS?** *Yes. Please call **the Director of Student Services & School Improvement at 636.937-4920** to determine if your child(ren) qualify, if you have not been informed that they will receive free meals.*
- 5. WHO CAN RECEIVE REDUCED PRICE MEALS?** *Your child(ren) can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits.*

6. **SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILD(REN) ARE APPROVED FOR FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?** No. Do not complete the attached application if you have recently received notification from your school that your child(ren) has been certified to receive free meal benefits for the 2020-2021 school year. If any child(ren) in our household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact our Director of Food Service – Mrs. Peggy Carle- at 636-937-7747 or via e-mail at [carlepeggy@festusedu.com](mailto:carlepeggy@festusedu.com)
7. **MY CHILD’S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO COMPLETE 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(ren) is eligible for the new school year.
8. **I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILD(REN) RECEIVE FREE MEALS?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please complete an application.
9. **WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED FOR VALIDITY?** Yes, you may ask you to send written proof.
10. **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 receiving Food Stamps, Temporary Assistance or other benefits. If you lose your job, your child(ren) may be able to receive free or reduced price meals.
11. **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: **Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Nathan Holder, at 636.937-4920, 1515 Mid-Meadow Lane – Festus, MO 63028.**
12. **MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN?** Yes. You, your child(ren) or other household members do not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced price meals.
13. **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. Any household members that does NOT receive an income should be reported with a ‘0’.
14. **WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME?** List the amount that you normally get. For example, if you normally get \$1,000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only got \$900, put down that you get \$1,000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get it only sometimes.
15. **WE ARE IN THE MILITARY; DO WE INCLUDE OUR HOUSING ALLOWANCE AS INCOME?** 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, or receive Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance payments, it must also be included as income. If your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Exclude military combat pay received by service members during a deployment. All other allowances must be included in your gross income.
16. **What if there is not enough space on the application for my family?** List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper, and attach it to the application. You may contact the R-VI

Director of Food Service at 636.937-7747 if you need a 2<sup>nd</sup> application or you may download and print an application from our website at [www.festus.k12.mo.us](http://www.festus.k12.mo.us)

17. **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 description and haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail the Director of Student Services – Mrs. Cara Pellerin at [pellerincara@festusedu.com](mailto:pellerincara@festusedu.com) & 636-937-8044.

17. **My family needs more help, are there other programs we might apply for?** To find out how to apply for the Food Stamp Program/SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-855-373-4636.

18. **May I apply online?** The application can be downloaded and printed from the R-6 Website at: <http://www.festus.k12.mo.us/webpages/foodservice/>

If you have other questions or need assistance, please contact the **R-VI Director of Food Service – Mrs. Peggy Carle, at 636.937-7747.**

Educationally,  
*Link W. Luttrell*

**Link W. Luttrell, Ed.D**  
**Superintendent of Schools**

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**USDA Non-discrimination Statement:**

*In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.*

*Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.*

*To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter 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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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