Apply Online. Anytime. Anywhere.

Riverside School District has made it faster and easier for parents to apply for free and reduced meals.

This free service enables families to receive program benefits faster than using the paper application. Your application is electronically submitted directly to the child nutrition office for processing.

- ✓ Submit an application in minutes
- ✓ Easy-to-follow steps
- ✓ Faster processing
- ✓ Safe and secure

To get started, visit: www.paschoolmeals.com p. 570.562.2121 f. 570.562.3205 • www.riversidesd.com

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Riverside School District offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.40; lunch costs \$2.70 for secondary a. Your child(ren) 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 an application for free or reduced price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

If you have received a **NOTICE OF DIRECT CERTIFICATION** letter for free meals, **do not** complete the application. But do let the school know if any children in your household are not listed on the Notice of Direct Certification letter you received.

- 1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS OR SPECIAL MILK?
 - All children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly the Food Stamp Program) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits are eligible for free meals.
 - Foster children who 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 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 income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

	FEDERAL ELIGIBILIT	Y INCOME CHART FOR	SCHOOL YEAR	2019-2020
	Household size	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
Your shildren may qualify for free or	1	23,107	1,926	445
Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals/milk if your household	2	31284	2,607	602
income falls at or below the limits on this	3	39,491	3,289	759
chart.	4	47,638	3,970	917
	5	55,815	4,652	1,074
	6	63,992	5,333	1,231
	7	72,169	6,015	1,388
	8	80,346	6,696	1,546
	Each additional person:	+8,177	+682	+158

- 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, call or email Mr. Bill Drazdowski 570.562.2121 x2202 wdrazdowski@riversidesd.com
- 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: Student's homeroom teacher or Principal's Office.
- 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 read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification letter, contact **Mrs. Kelly** McKeefery 300 Davis St. Taylor PA 18517 (P) 570.562.2121 x2204 or kmckeefery@riversidesd.com immediately.

p. 570.562.2121 f. 570.562.3205 • www.riversidesd.com

- 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 <u>http://www.paschoolmeals.com</u> or visit the PA Department of Human Services website at <u>www.compass.state.pa.us</u>.
- 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. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
- 7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC <u>may</u> be eligible for free or reduced price meals. 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 or 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: **Mr. Bill Drazdowski 570.562.2121 x2202** wdrazdowski@riversidesd.com
- 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, 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. 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, or receive Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance payments, 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] Mrs. Kelly McKeefery 300 Davis St. Taylor PA 18517 (P) 570.562.2121 x2204 or kmckeefery@riversidesd.com 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 **SNAP** or other assistance benefits, visit www.compass.state.pa.us, contact your local assistance office, or call 1-800-692-7462.

Riverside School District 300 Davis Street, Taylor, PA 18517

p. 570.562.2121 f. 570.562.3205 • www.riversIdesd.com



If you have other questions or need help, call Mrs. Kelly McKeefery 570.562.2121 x2204.

Sincerely,

Bill Draxdowski

Business Manager Riverside School District

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 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.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

HOW TO APPLY FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS or SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM

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, <u>even if</u> your children attend more than one school in Riverside SD. The application must be filled out completely to certify your children for free or reduced price school meals. 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, contact **Mrs. Kelly McKeefery 300 Davis St. Taylor PA 18517 (P) 570.562.2121 x2204 or** kmckeefery@rjversjdesd.com.

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, 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 Riverside SD <u>regardless of age.</u>

A) List each child's name. Print each child's	B) Is the child a student at	C) Do you have any foster children? If any children	D) Are any children homeless, migrant,
name. Use one line of the application for each	Riverside School District Mark	listed are foster children, mark the "Foster Child"	or runaway? If you believe any child
child. When printing names, write one letter	'Yes' or 'No' under the column	box next to the child's name. If you are ONLY	listed in this section meets this
in each box. Stop if you run out of space. If	titled "Student" to tell us which	applying for foster children, after finishing STEP 1,	description, mark the "Homeless,
there are more children present than lines on	children attend. If you marked	go to STEP 4.	Migrant, Runaway" box next to the
the application, attach a second piece of	'Yes,' write the grade level of the	Foster children who live with you may count as	child's name and complete all steps of
paper with all required information for the	student in the 'Grade' column to	members of your household and should be listed	the application.
additional children.	the left.	on your application. If you are applying for both	
		foster and non-foster children, go to step 3.	

STEP 2: DO ANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN SNAP or TANF?

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:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

A) If no one in your household participates in any of the	B) If anyone in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:
above listed programs:	• Write a case number for SNAP or TANF. You only need to provide one case number. If you participate in
Leave STEP 2 blank and go to STEP 3.	one of these programs and do not know your case number, contact: 1-877-395-8930 or your local assistance office.
	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.
- o Gross income is the total income received before taxes.

• 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 inco	me was reported incorrectly, your application will be					
investigated.							
• Mark how often each type of income i	is received using the check boxes to the right of each field.						
3.A. REPORT INCOME EARNED BY CHI	LDREN						
A) Report all income earned or received b	by children. Report the combined gross income for ALL children listed i	n 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 more	ney received from outside your household that is paid DIRECTLY to you	Ir children. Many households do not have any child income.					
3.B REPORT INCOME EARNED BY ADU	JLTS						
Who should I list here?							
• When filling out this section, include A	ALL adult members in your household who are living with you and shar	e income and expenses, even if they are not related and even if					
they do not receive income of their ov	<u>vn.</u>						
• Do NOT include:							
 People who live with you but are no 	ot supported by your household's income AND do not contribute incor	ne to your household.					
 Infants, Children, and Students alre 	ady listed in STEP 1.						
B) List adult household members'	C) Report earnings from work. Report all income from work in the	D) Report income from public assistance/child					
names. Print the name of each	"Earnings from Work" field on the application. This is usually the	support/alimony. Report all income that applies in the "Public					
household member in the boxes marked	money received from working at jobs. If you are a self-employed	Assistance/Child Support/Alimony" field on the application. Do					
"Names of Adult Household Members	business or farm owner, you will report your net income.	not report the cash value of any public assistance benefits NOT					
(First and Last)." <u>Do not list any</u>		listed on the chart. If income is received from child support or					
household members you listed in STEP	What if I am self-employed? Report income from that work as a	alimony, only report court-ordered payments. Informal but					
1. If a child listed in STEP 1 has income,	net amount. This is calculated by subtracting the total operating	regular payments should be reported as "other" income in the					
follow the instructions in STEP 3, part A.	expenses of your business from its gross receipts or revenue.	next part.					
E) Report income from	F) Report total household size. Enter the total number of	G) Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number.					
pensions/retirement/all other income.	household members in the field "Total Household Members	An adult household member must enter the last four digits of					
Report all income that applies in the	(Children and Adults)". This number MUST be equal to the number	their Social Security Number in the space provided. You are					
"Pensions/Retirement/All Other	of household members listed in STEP 1 and STEP 3. If there are any	eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social					
Income" field on the application.	members of your household that you have not listed on the	Security Number. If no adult household members have a Social					
meene new on the application.	application, go back and add them. It is very important to list all	Security Number, leave this space blank and mark the box to					
	household members, as the size of your household affects your	the right labeled "Check if no SSN."					
	eligibility for free and reduced price meals.	the Hand back of the bolk.					

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

2019-2020 Pennsylvania Household Application for Free & Reduced Price School Meals and Special Milk Program (Complete one application per household. Use a pen)

	Child's First Name		Π	VI C	hild's La	ast Name	e							Enter	Grade HS for Head Start	Stuc Yes	lent? No		Ho Foster M Child R
nber: "Anyone who is g with you and shares																			
me and expenses, even t related."									Ť	-ii								klade	
en in Foster care and en who meet the							+-+-							-				all that apply	
ion of Homeless, nt or Runaway are							+		-									Check a	
e for free meals. Read o Apply for Free and ced Price School		<u></u>											_	-					
or more information.																			
P 2 Do any Hou	sehold Members (including you	ı) currently	participate	in one	e or mor	e of the f	following	assistan	ice pro	grams: \$	SNAP o	r TAN	F?			2.21			
and and a second sec	If NO > Go to STEP 3.	If YES	> Write a c	ase nu	mber her	e then go t	to STEP 4	(Do not c	omplete	STEP 3)			umber		git case num	ber in this	space		
P3 Report Incon	ne for ALL Household Members (Skin this st	on if you and	woroc	Vec' to	STED 2)						ttine e	ny one i				Spuce.		
		DRIP IIIS SI	cp ii you ana		1 103 10		1.40.0			8° 6 2 1	1000			Но	w often?	1.11			
	A. Child Income		aivo incomo. P	loggo i	ncluda tha	TOTAL		od by all			Child inc	ome	We	_		Monthly			
	Sometimes children in the househol Household Members listed in STEP		eive income. P	lease I	nciude the		come recei	ved by all		\$				C) ()	0			
1	B. All Adult Household Memb	ers (includ	ing yoursel	f)															
unsure what to include here?	List all Household Members not liste for each source in whole dollars (no		(including you	rself) e	ven if they	do not rec	ceive incom	e. For eac	h House	hold Mem	iber lister	d, if they	/ do rec	eive incor	me, report f	total gros	s income	e (befo	ore tax
page and review	If no income is received from any		te '0'. If you e	nter '0		any fields How often?	s blank, you					ere is n w often?	o incon	ne to rep	ort.			How	often?
rts titled "Sources ne" for more tion.	Name of Adult Household Members (First	and Last)	Earnings from W	/ork	r		Marth Marth	s	ublic Assistance apport/Alimony	avChild	Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly	Pensions/Ret All Other Inco		Weekly I	Bi-Weekly	1
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ources of Income Its" chart will help h the All Adult						0						\bigcirc	\bigcirc		$ \rightarrow $				
nold Members		\$				0	00	<u>O</u> \$	-			0	0	\$			0	0	
		\$				0	00	0\$				0	0	\$			0	0	0
	Total Household Members		Last Four Digit					. [x]	x x	X X	(T		Chec	k if no SSN				
	(Children and Adults)		Primary Wage I	arner o	or Other Ad	duit Housen	nold Member		<u>^ _ ^</u>		·								
EP 4 Contact Info	ormation and adult signature	MAIL C	OMPLETED	FOR		UR CHIL	D'S SCH			- Landar				7					
(promise) that all informat	ion on this application is true and that all incc	ome is reported.	I understand the	at this in	formation is	aiven in cor	nnection with	the receipt of	of Federal	funds, and	that school	ol officials	s mav ver	ifv (check)	the informat	ion. I am a	ware that i	if l purp	ooselv
	lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted					<u> </u>													
ormation, my children may							·····												
ormation, my children may																			

INSTRUCTIONS Sources of Income

Sources of In	come for Children	Sc	ources of Income for A	dults		
Sources of Child Income Example(s)		Earnings from Work	Public Assistance / Alimony / Child Support	Pensions / Retirement / All Other Income		
- 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		- Gross Salary, wages, cash bonuses	- Unemployment benefits - Worker's compensation	- Social Security (including railroad retirement and		
		- Net income from self- employment (farm or business) * Reporting Annual Income is allowable for seasonal or	Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Cash assistance from State or local	black lung benefits) - Private pensions or disability benefits - Regular income from trusts or estates		
- Income from person outside the household	their child receives Social Security benefits come from person outside the household regularly gives a child spending money		government - Alimony payments - Child support payments - Veteran's benefits - Strike benefits	- Annuities - Investment income - Earned interest - Rental income		
- Income from any other source	- A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust	NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances) - Allowances for off-base housing, food, and clothing		- 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 o	or Latino			
Race (check one or more	e): 🔲 American Indian d	or Alaskan Native	Asian	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	White

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 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, 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, 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:

mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

- fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

* All Household Applications must be returned to your child's school for processing.

Do not fill out	For School Use Only	
	Annual Income C	Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 Weeks x 26, Twice A Month x 24, Monthly x 12
Total Income:	Per : 🗆 Week, 🗆 Every 2 Weeks, 🗆 Twice A Month, 🗆 Monthly, 🗆 Yearly,	Household Size: Date Withdrawn:
Eligibility:	Reduced Denied Reason: Category	egorically Eligible Other Source Categorically Eligible Determining Official's Signature: Date:
Confirming Official's Signature	(cannot be the Determining Official):Date	te:Signature of School Employee Completing Verification:Date:_