### HALL COUNTY APPLICATION FOR MEALS AT SCHOOL AND OTHER BENEFITS 2023-2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Hall County School Nutrition** offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.10 in elementary and \$1.35 in middle/high; lunch costs \$1.95 in elementary and \$2.05 in middle/high. 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 an application for free or reduced-price meal benefits and a set of detailed instructions.

# 5 REASONS FOR COMPLETING **Free & Reduced Applications** ONE MEAL APPLICATION AFFECTS MANY AREAS!

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L.S.				
INCREASED FUNDING TO SUPPORT STUDENT EDUCATION	ADDITIONAL Funding For Technology And Internet Access	DISCOUNTS FOR FEES Associated with College Application Processes	DISCOUNTED FEES FOR Sat, Act & Ap tests. Scholarship Opportunities	FREE OR REDUCED MEAL PRICES FOR Healthy, nutritious Student meals

Your child's approved eligibility for free or reduced-price meals at school may provide an additional benefits for other services available to students in the school district. Examples of these benefits may include college enterance exams or fees offered at no cost or at a reduced cost; certain hearing or vision tests, discounted internet service, ACT, SAT exam fees waived or offered at a reduced cost to students. If you are interested in sharing your child's approved eligibility with school district administrators please check the sharing eligibility boxes on the application form. No other information is shared, **only the approved eligibility. Be assured that information on the meal application is kept confidential.** Additionally, keep the eligibility notification letter you receive after the meal application has been processed, as it may be used for additional benefits during the school year

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 **SNAP** or **TANF** 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 if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children <u>MAY</u> qualify for free <u>OR</u> reduced-price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart

FEDERAL ELIGIBIL	FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART for School Year 2024						
Household size	Annual	Monthly	Weekly				
1	26,973	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	93,536	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 Hall County HOPE Program, Homeless Liason 770-967-5846, or Migrant Education Program at 770-534-9123.
- 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. Return the completed application to your youngest child's school nutrition manager.
- 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 **Valerie English 770-534-1080**, <u>Valerie.english@hallco.org</u> 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 <u>https://schoolmeals@hallco.org</u> to begin or to learn more about the online application process. Contact Valerie English 770-534-1080, <u>Valerie.english@hallco.org</u> 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 15, 2023**. 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 CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Please send in an application, as their eligibility will be based on income.
- WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
   IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER? Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year.
- 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: Eric Radich, 711 Green Street, Gainesville, GA, 770-534-1080, eric.radich@hallco.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. 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.
- 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 Valerie English 770-534-1080, <u>Valerie.english@hallco.org</u> 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, contact your local assistance office or call **1-877-423-4746**.

If you have other questions or need help, please call Valerie English at 770-534-1080 ext 10223.

Sincerely,

heryl Jones

Hall County School Nutrition Director

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## HOW TO APPLY FOR FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS 2023-2024

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 Hall County School Systems. 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 Hall County School Nutrition at valerie.english@hallco.org or 770-534-1080.

#### 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 Hall County School System, regardless of age.

A) List each child's name. Print each child's name. Use one line of the application for each child. When printing names, write one letter in each box. Stop if you run out of space. 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 Hall County School System? Mark "Yes" or "No" under the column titled "Student" to tell us which children attend Hall County School Systems. If you marked "Yes", write the grade level of the student in the "Grade" column to the right.	<b>C) Do you have any foster children?</b> 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 <b>STEP 1</b> , go to <b>STEP 4</b> . 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 <b>STEP 3</b> .	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 <u>complete all steps</u> of the application.
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#### STEP 2: DO ANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN SNAP, TANF, 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:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

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, TANF, or FDPIR. 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: Hall County DFACS at 1-877-423-4746.			
	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.

STEP 3: REPORT INCOME FOR AI	L HOUSEHOLD N	EMBERS continued					
<ul> <li>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.</li> <li>Mark how often each type of income is received using the check boxes to the right of each field.</li> </ul>							
3.A. REPORT INCOME EARNED BY C	HILDREN						
A) Report all income earned or received count foster children's income if you are app <i>What is Child Income</i> ? Child income is mo	by children. Report the lying for them together ney received from outs	with the rest of your household.			sehold in the box marked "Child Income." Only eholds do not have any child income.		
3.B. REPORT INCOME EARNED BY A	DULTS						
<ul> <li><u>do not receive income of their own</u>.</li> <li><b>Do NOT include:</b></li> </ul>	t supported by your hou	s in your household who are living with you sehold's income AND do not contribute inc			enses, <u>even if they are not related and even if they</u>		
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.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.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.							
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. F) Report total household size. Enter the total number of 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. 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							
					mising that all information has been truthfully ments on the back of the application		
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) Return completed form to your youngest child's School Nutrition ManagerD) Share children's racial and ethnic ident (optional). On the back of the application, we you to share information about your children's race and ethnicity. This field is optional and d not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals.							

Optional - Sharing your child(s) eligibility only with Student Services for potential additional services. Check or initial on the line provided.

2023-2024 Household Applic	cation for Fr	ree and Reduc	ed-Price Scho	ol Meals		Apply onli	ne: https:/	//schoolmeals.ha	allco.org		Application	#			
Complete one application per house	ehold. Please u	ise a pen (not a pe	encil).				•				,,				
STEP 1 List ALL Household Membe	ers who are infa	nts, children and st	udents up to and in	cluding grade 12	2. <i>(If more spa</i>	aces are required for a	dditional na	ames, attach anoth	er sheet of papel	r)					
Definition of Household Member: "Anyc are eligible for free meals. Read How to Child's First Name	one who is living	with you and shares	s income and expen School Meals for mo	ses, even if not r				no meet the definit		Migran	t or Runaway Student?	Foster	Homeless, Migrant,		
STEP 2 Do any Household Membe			pate in one of more	-		ograms: SNAP, TANF c	(options				Yes No		Runaway	] ] ] ]	
If NO> Go to STEP 3.	f YES> Write a o	case number here tl	hen go to STEP 4 an	d <u>DO NOT comp</u>	lete STEP 3.				Case #: Write only	one cas	e number in th	is space			
STEP 3 Report Income for ALL Hou	usehold Membe	rs <i>(Skip this step if</i> )	your answered "YES	" to STEP 2)					in the only	one out		10 op 400			
	A. Child I												Chock	how often	
Are you unsure what income to include here?			sehold earn or recei	ve income.							Child Income	Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly
Flip the page and review the charts titled "Sources of Income"					Members list	ted in STEP 1 here.				ς		1	,		,
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 ALL Adult Household Members section.	List all Hous For each Ho write '0'. If	sehold Members not ousehold Member li	sted, if they do rece ve any fields blank, y	cluding yourself) ive income, repo ou are certifying eck how often	ort total gross in	o not receive income. ncome (before taxes) i nat there is no income Public Assistance Child Support/ Alimony	to report e/	rce in whole dollar: Check how oft Bi-Weekly 2x Mo	en		do not receive Retirement/ Pension/All Other Income	income from		how often 2x Month	Monthly
	Nume	\$	Weekly bi wee		Wontiny	\$	Weekiy		Wontiny	\$	other medine	Weekiy	DI Weekiy	2X World I	Wontiny
		\$ \$ \$				\$ \$ \$				\$ \$ \$					
Total Household Members (Children and Adults)			Social Security Nun ner or Other Adult H		ber	X X X -	X X	· · · · ·		. '	Check if	no SSN		]	<b>I</b>
STEP 4 Contact Information and a	dult signature.	Return Comp	oleted Form to	o your your	ngest child	<u>d's school nutri</u>	<u>tion ma</u>	nager.							
"I certify (promise) that all information c information. I am aware that if I purpose						0			al funds, and tha	t school	l officials may v	verify (check)	the		
Street Address <i>(if available)</i>			1	City				State		Zip		Daytime Ph	one and Ema	il (optional)	
Printed Name of Adult Signing the Form				Signature o								Today's Dat	e		
Optional: Please initial on the lines of Testing coordinators School nurses to po *Failing to initial for the co	s, guidance cour tentially qualify	nselors to potentiall for free hearing/visi	y qualify for reduce on exams	priced college er	ntrance exams						Office Use Onl	у.			

Instructions

#### Source of Income

Sources of Inc	come for Children	Sources of Income for Adults
Sources of Child Income	Example(s)	Earnings from Work Public Assistance / Pensions / Retirement / Alimony / Child Support All Other Income
- Earnings from work	- A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages	Salary, wages, cash bonuses     Net income from self-     Supplemental Security     Supplemental Security     Supplemental Security
<ul> <li>Social Security</li> <li>Disability Payments</li> <li>Survivor's Benefits</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits</li> <li>A Parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits</li> </ul>	employment (farm or business) - Cash assistance from State or local - Cash assistance from - Cash assistance from - Private pensions or disability benefits - Regular income from
-Income from person outside the household	<ul> <li>A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money</li> </ul>	Alimony payments     Annuities     Annuities     Investment income     Earned interest
-Income from any other source	- A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust	Allowances for off-base     housing, food and clothing     Surke benefits     · Rental income     · Regular cash payments     from outside household
ional Children's Rad	cial and Ethnic Identities	
		s important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community.
	ot affect your children's eligibility for free or redu	
	, ,	
icity (Check one) :	— ·	
(Check one or more) : American Inc	dian or Alaskan Native 🛛 🗖 Asian	Black or African American Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander White
hild for free or reduced-price meals. You must i number of the adult household member who sign ocial security number is not required when you upplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SN ANF) Program or Food Distribution Program of her FDPIR identifier for your child or when you gning the application does not have a social se etermine if your child is eligible for free or reduce forcement of the lunch and breakfast program ith education, health, and nutrition programs to enefits for their programs, auditors for program em look into violations of program rules.	tion, but if you do not, we cannot approve your include the last four digits of the social security ns the application. The last four digits of the apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a IAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or a indicate that the adult household member ecurity number. We will use your information to ced-price meals, and for administration and ns. We MAY share your eligibility information o help them evaluate, fund, or determine reviews, and law enforcement officials to help .S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights ited from discriminating on the basis of race,	<ul> <li>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. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voi and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.</li> <li>To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writin letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephor number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to infort the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil ri violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by: mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture</li> <li>Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410</li> <li>fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or</li> </ul>
policies, this institution is prohibit plor, national origin, sex (including gender iden prisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.	tity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or	email: <u>program.intake@usda.gov.</u> This institution is an equal opportunity provider.
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Jor, national origin, sex (including gender iden prisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.	e Only	

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	Determining Official's Signature	Date	Confirming Official's Signature	Date	Verifying Official's Signature	Date