

Letter to Households for Application for Free and Reduced Price Meals

Date: _____

Dear [PARENT/GUARDIAN]:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Yukon Flats School District offers the following healthy meals Monday, Wednesday and Friday starting September 11, 2006.

Lunch which costs \$ 4.00.

- Your children may qualify for free, or reduced price meals.
- Reduced price lunch is \$ 2.00 _____
- To apply for free or reduced price meals, complete the Application for Free and Reduced Price Meals, which is enclosed.
- We cannot approve an application that is not complete, read all instructions and be sure to fill out all required information.
- **Return the completed application to Yukon Flats School District. Allow up to 10 working days to process your application.**

Before you complete an application, read the following questions and answers:

1. **Should I fill out an application if I receive Food Stamps, Alaska Temporary Assistance or Native Family Assistance for my children?** You do not need to complete an application.
2. **Who can get free or reduced price meals?** If your household receives Food Stamps, Alaska Temporary Assistance or Native Family Assistance or the household income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Chart for Alaska (on page 2), your children can get free or reduced price meals. Children in households getting Food Stamps or Temporary Assistance and most foster children can get free meals. If you received Food Stamps or Temporary Assistance during the summer months, you do not need to complete an application. (Assistance acronyms: Alaska Temporary Assistance Program-ATAP, Native Family Assistance Programs-NFAP)
3. **Can homeless, runaway and migrant children get free meals?** Yes. Please contact your child's school to see if your child(ren) qualify.
4. **May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen?** Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced price meals.
5. **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.
6. **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.
7. **We are in the military; do we include our housing allowance as income?** If your housing is part of the *Military Housing Privatization Initiative**, do not include your housing allowance as income. All other allowances must be included in your gross income.(See application instructions.
8. **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, you lose your job or if you start getting Food Stamps, TANF or other benefits.
9. **I get WIC. Can my child(ren) get free meals?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals.
10. **Will the information I give be checked?** Yes, we may ask you to send written proof of the information you have given on the application.

11. **What if my child has special dietary needs?** If your child has been determined by a licensed physician to have a disability that prevents your child from eating the regular meal, the school must make substitutions prescribed by a physician. Contact the school foodservice for further information.
12. **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: **Leslie O'Connor-YFSD-PO Box 350-Fort Yukon, AK. 99740.**
13. **Are there any additional benefits our family may be eligible for?** Yes, Health Insurance and/or WIC

- **Denali KidCare 1 (888) 318-8890**, or in Anchorage, **269-6529** for information and an application for free health insurance for children, teens, and pregnant women.
- **WIC- 1 (800) 478-2221** for information on how to apply for free food benefits and nutrition education for pregnant, postpartum/breastfeeding women, infants and children under 5 years. If approved for free/reduced price meals you may take your approval letter with you to WIC for documentation for WIC benefits.

Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls within the limits of this chart.			
FEDERAL INCOME ELIGIBILITY CHART			
For School Year 2005-2006			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	22,163	1,889	436
2	30,525	2,544	588
3	38,388	3,199	739
4	46,250	3,855	890
5	54,113	4,510	1,041
6	61,975	5,165	1,192
7	69,838	5,820	1,344
8	77,700	6,475	1,495
Each additional person add:	+\$ 7,863	+\$ 656	+\$ 152

If you have other questions or need help, call **Yukon Flats School District 662-2515.**

Sincerely,

Donna Thomas Food Service

Privacy Act Statement: This explains how we will use the information you give us.

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 social security number of the 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 Stamp Program, 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.

*** Military Housing Privatization Initiative.** This initiative puts the operation of military owned housing under private contractors. **Note:** This income exclusion is only for service members living in housing covered under the Military Housing Privatization Initiative. It is not an allowable exclusion for households living off base in the general commercial/private real estate market. Under this privatization initiative, a housing allowance appears on the leave and earnings statement of service members living in privatized housing. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the housing allowance provided under the Military Housing Privatization Initiative is excluded from consideration as income for military families applying for free and reduced price meals or free milk for their children under any of the child nutrition programs.

Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal law and USDA policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call (202)-720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.