



CHEROKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BRYCE SCHANBACHER, SUPERINTENDENT

P.O. BOX 325

CHEROKEE, OK 73728

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KEELA PATTERSON

Elementary Administration

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Dear Cherokee Chief families,

At Cherokee Public Schools, we understand that the ongoing government shutdown has caused unexpected financial challenges for many families. Please know that you are not alone — our school community is here to help ensure that every child continues to receive healthy, nutritious meals each day.

If your family has been affected by reduced work hours, loss of income, or temporary financial strain, you may qualify for **free or reduced-price school meals**. These supports are available to help your child stay nourished and focused during the school day.

We encourage you to reach out and apply — our staff is ready to assist with any questions. Your privacy will always be respected, and applying does not affect your child's standing at school in any way.

Together, we'll continue to care for and support one another through this time.

Step-by-Step Guide: How to Apply for Free or Reduced-Price Meals

1. Determine if You May Qualify

- Families who have experienced a **loss of income or reduced work hours** due to the government shutdown may qualify.
- Students who are **already directly certified** through **SNAP** or **Medicaid** will automatically remain eligible — you do not need to reapply.

2. Get the Application

- Visit the **Cherokee Public Schools website** to find the **Household Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals** or login to your students records portal on Sylogist and complete the application online. *Contact Amantha Sanborn if you need assistance with this.*
- You can also request a printed copy from your child's school office or the **Child Nutrition Director**.



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3. Complete the Application

- Fill out the household information, including total income and number of people living in the home.
- Only one application per household is required, even if you have multiple children attending Cherokee schools.

4. Submit the Application

- Return your completed form to the **school office** or the **district's Child Nutrition Office** as soon as possible.
- Applications can be submitted **any time during the school year** when your household's financial situation changes.

5. Wait for Notification

- You will receive a letter notifying you if your child qualifies for **free** or **reduced-price** meals.
- **Once approved, your child's eligibility lasts for the remainder of the school year.**

Contact Amantha Sanborn, Child Nutrition Director, for more information.

Phone: 580-596-3277

Email: sanborna@cherokee.k12.ok.us