SOUTHSIDE SCHOOLS

70 Scott Drive
Southside, AR 72501-9796

Phone: 870-251-2341
Fax: 870-251-3316

July 1, 2026

Dear Southside Parents,

As we begin school, we always invite your family to complete the application for the school meal program. Families must complete the application to qualify for free or reduced meals. All pandemic programs have been exhausted. Unfortunately, without approval of this application, meals will be charged to your family.

So why do we ask you to fill out the form this year? It may benefit your family with free or reduced priced school meals or it may also benefit our school. The collective data from all the forms will be used for additional funding sources in our school (Enhanced Student Achievement Funds, REAP funds, and other grants). Last year, those provided an additional million dollars to serve students. Those sources helped us upgrade school safety measures, pay for after school tutoring, purchase school supplies for all students, provide ACT Prep programs, and many other services.

Things to keep in mind:

- All information is private. The approval of application to receive free or reduced-price meals is also private.
- Children that receive free or reduced-price meals are not identified or treated differently than children who pay full price.
- A family of four can earn up to $1,175/week and qualify for reduced-price meals, a family of five can earn $1,377/week and qualify for reduced-price meals. Other numbers for qualifying can be found on page 1 of the application
- To apply for free or reduced-price meals based on your household income, you must include all adults and children in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, and friends) who share income and expenses.
- If you need assistance or have questions, please see the information table at Open House.

Thank you for helping. If we can be of assistance to you, please call (870) 251-2264.

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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 responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

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