BOONE COUNTY SCHOOLS FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS

Dear Parent/Guardian:
Children need healthy meals to learn. Boone County School offers healthy meals every school day. All **breakfast costs $2.10**; lunch costs **$3.35 for elementary and $3.60 for middle and high school students**. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals. **Reduced-price is $0.00 for breakfast and $ 0.00 for lunch.** This packet includes an application for free or reduced-price meal benefits and detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. **WHO CAN GET FREE MEALS?**
   a. All children in households receiving benefits from **SNAP** or **KTAP** can get free meals regardless of your income. Categorical eligibility for free meal benefits are extended to all children in a household when the application lists a case number for SNAP or KTAP for any household member. Households with any member who is receiving **SNAP** or **KTAP** benefits may apply with abbreviated information as indicated on the application and instructions.
   b. Children receiving Medicaid when the Medicaid office reports to the Kentucky Department of Education that the household composition and income levels are within the free income eligibility guidelines are eligible for free meals. (Reporting participation in Medicaid on a household application does not provide benefits).
   c. Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
   d. Children participating in their school's Federal Head Start Program are eligible for free meals.
   e. Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
   f. Children can get free or reduced-price meals if your household's gross 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 Eligibility Income Chart for School Year SY 2024-25			
Household Size	Yearly Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income
1	27,861	2,322	536
2	37,814	3,152	728
3	47,767	3,981	919
4	57,720	4,810	1,110
5	67,673	5,640	1,302
6	77,626	6,469	1,493
7	87,579	7299	1685
8	97,532	8,128,	1,876
Each additional person:	9,953	830	192

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 have not been told your children will get free meals, please call Student Services at 859-334-4455 or email mark.raleigh@boone.kyschools.us.
3. **CAN I INCLUDE FOSTER CHILDREN AS PART OF MY HOUSEHOLD ON MY APPLICATION?** Yes. A foster child may be included in the household on an application when applying for benefits for any non-foster children residing in a household.
4. **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 **your child's school or Food Service Dept., at 8330 US Hwy 42, Florence, Ky 41042**
5. **SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS?** No, but please read the letter you got carefully. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact **the Food Service at 859-282-2367 or email holly.buchanan@boone.kyschools.us** immediately.
6. **CAN I APPLY ONLINE?** Yes! You are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application. The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit **www.myschoolapps.com** to begin or contact Food Service Dept., 859-282-2367 for more information.
7. **MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT ANOTHER 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 26, 2025.** You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. 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.

8. **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. Please fill out an application.
9. **WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?** Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
10. **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 reduced-price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
11. **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 writing to: **Stephanie Steele, 8830 US Hwy 42, Florence, KY 41042 or calling 859-282-2367.**
12. **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.
13. **DO I HAVE TO PROVIDE MY SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER ON THE APPLICATION?** No. Only the last 4 digits of the Social Security Number of the household's primary wage earner or another adult household member is needed when applying. It must be indicated on the application if no adult household member has a Social Security Number.
14. **WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME?** List the amount that you normally 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.
15. **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 also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.
16. **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. 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.
17. **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 **Food Service Dept., 8830 US Hwy 42, Florence, KY 41042 or call 859-282-2367** to receive a second application.
18. **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, call 1-855-306-8959 or visit www.kynect.ky.gov.

If you have any questions or need help, please call the Food Service Department at **859-282-2367.**

Sincerely,
Boone County Food Service Department

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