



PRESS RELEASE

15250 Avenue of Science ■ San Diego ■ California 92128-3406
Phone (858) 521-2800 ■ FAX (858) 485-1075

For Immediate Release
August 04, 2014

Contact: Jessica Wakefield,
Director of Communications
(858) 521.2707

POWAY UNIFIED PROVIDES INFORMATION FOR FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEALS IN THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH AND SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAMS

The Poway Unified School District today announced its policy for providing free and reduced-price meals for children served under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. The Food and Nutrition Department, located in the Poway Industrial Center, has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

Children from households whose income is at or below the levels shown herein are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Children who receive CalFresh (also known as Food Stamps or SNAP), California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), and Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payments (Kin-GAP), or receive benefits from the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) are automatically eligible, regardless of the income of the household in which they reside. Foster children are eligible for free meals regardless of the child's personal income or the income of the household.

Requirements for school officials to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits are as follows: For households receiving CalFresh (also known as Food Stamps or SNAP), CalWORKs, Kin-GAP, or FDPIR benefits – applications need only include the enrolled child(ren)'s name, CalFresh, CalWORKs, Kin-GAP, or FDPIR case number, and the signature of an adult household member. For households who do not list a CalFresh, CalWORKs, Kin-GAP, or FDPIR case number, the application must include the names of all household members, the amount and source of the income received by each household member, and the signature and corresponding last four digits of Social Security number of an adult household member. If the household member who signs the application does not have a Social Security number, the household member must indicate on the application that a Social Security number is not available.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, the determining official(s), as designated by the Poway Food and Nutrition Department, shall review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the eligibility ruling may discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. Parents may also make a formal request for an appeal hearing of the decision and may do so orally or in writing with the Food and Nutrition Department's hearing official. Parents or guardians should contact the Food and Nutrition Department for specific information regarding the name of the determining official and/or hearing official for Poway Unified School District.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the Food and Nutrition Department. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the levels shown above.

Households that receive CalFresh, CalWORKs, Kin-GAP, or FDPIR benefits may not have to complete an Application for Free or Reduced-Price Meals. School officials will determine eligibility for free meals based on documentation obtained directly from the CalFresh, CalWORKs, Kin-GAP, or FDPIR office that a child is a member of a household currently receiving CalFresh or FDPIR benefits or an assistance unit receiving CalWORKs or Kin-GAP benefits. Food and Nutrition officials will notify households of their eligibility, but those who do not want their child(ren) to receive free meals must contact the Food and Nutrition Department. CalFresh, CalWORKs, Kin-GAP, and FDPIR households should complete an application if they are not notified of their eligibility by August 11, 2014. Nutritionally balanced meals are served every school day at all District schools.

Meal Prices for 2014-2015 School Year:

REGULAR	Breakfast*	Lunch
Elementary Students	\$1.75	\$2.75
Secondary Students	\$2.00	\$3.25
Reduced Price Students	\$0.30	\$0.40
Extra Milk	\$0.75	\$0.75

* Breakfast is served at Los Peñasquitos, Midland, Pomerado, Rolling Hills, and Valley Elementary Schools, Bernardo Heights Middle School, Meadowbrook Middle School, and Poway, Mt. Carmel, and Westview High Schools.

HOW TO APPLY

Application forms are being distributed to all households with a letter informing them of the availability of free and reduced-price meals for enrolled children. The household size and income criteria identified below will be used to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits. Applications are also available at the school office and the Food and Nutrition Department. To apply for free or reduced price meals, a household member must complete an application and return it to the school office or mail it to the Food and Nutrition Department for processing. Parents and guardians may also apply online at www.applyforlunch.com. Applications may be submitted at any time during the school year. The information households provide on the application will be used to determine meal eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school or program officials.

Participants from households with incomes at or below the following levels may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

Income Eligibility Guidelines for July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Household Size	Free Eligibility Scale for Lunch and Breakfast					Reduced-Price Eligibility Scale for Lunch and Breakfast				
	Year	Month	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Week	Year	Month	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Week
1	\$ 15,171	\$ 1,265	\$ 633	\$ 584	\$ 292	\$ 21,590	\$ 1,800	\$ 900	\$ 831	\$ 416
2	20,449	1,705	853	787	394	29,101	2,426	1,213	1,120	560
3	25,727	2,144	1,072	990	495	36,612	3,051	1,526	1,409	705
4	31,005	2,584	1,292	1,193	597	44,123	3,677	1,839	1,698	849
5	36,283	3,024	1,512	1,396	698	51,634	4,303	2,152	1,986	993
6	41,561	3,464	1,732	1,599	800	59,145	4,929	2,465	2,275	1,138
7	46,839	3,904	1,952	1,802	901	66,656	5,555	2,778	2,564	1,282
8	52,117	4,344	2,172	2,005	1,003	74,167	6,181	3,091	2,853	1,427
For each additional family member, add:										
	\$ 5,278	\$ 440	\$ 220	\$ 203	\$ 102	\$ 7,511	\$ 626	\$ 313	\$ 289	\$ 145

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture 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 USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.