

ST+HOPE

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

St. HOPE Public Schools participates in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program by offering healthy meals every school day. Your children may qualify for free or reduced-price meals by completing the Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals. Eligible students may receive meals at the reduced-price rate of **\$0.40** for lunch and **\$0.30** for breakfast. Students may buy lunch for **\$2.55** and breakfast for **\$1.50**.

This packet includes an Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. WHO CAN RECEIVE FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from CalFresh, CalWORKs, or FDPIR are eligible for free meals.
- Foster children under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- Children participating in their school’s Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, migrant, or runaway are eligible for free meals.
- Children may receive free or reduced-price meals if your household’s income is within the limits of 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.

HOUSE -HOLD SIZE	FREE ELIGIBILITY SCALE FOR LUNCH, BREAKFAST, AND MILK					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	\$ 15,444	\$ 1,287	\$ 644	\$ 594	\$ 297	\$ 21,978	\$ 1,832	\$ 916	\$ 846	\$ 423
2	20,826	1,736	868	801	401	29,637	2,470	1,235	1,140	570
3	26,208	2,184	1,092	1,008	504	37,296	3,108	1,554	1,435	718
4	31,590	2,633	1,317	1,215	608	44,955	3,747	1,874	1,730	865
5	36,972	3,081	1,541	1,422	711	52,614	4,385	2,193	2,024	1,012
6	42,354	3,530	1,765	1,629	815	60,273	5,023	2,512	2,319	1,160
7	47,749	3,980	1,990	1,837	919	67,951	5,663	2,832	2,614	1,307
8	53,157	4,430	2,215	2,045	1,023	75,647	6,304	3,152	2,910	1,455
For each additional family member, add:										
	\$ 5,408	\$ 451	\$ 226	\$ 208	\$ 104	\$ 7,696	\$ 642	\$ 321	\$ 296	\$ 148

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 qualify for free meals, please call or email Student Services Coordinator **Tammy Ingraham** at tingraham@sthopepublicschools.org or **916-275-9652**.

3. DO I NEED TO COMPLETE AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD?

No. Complete **one** Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals 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 the front office at your child’s school site.**

4. SHOULD I COMPLETE AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS?

No, but please read the letter carefully and follow any instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, please email foodservice@sthopepublicschools.org or contact the front office at your child's school site immediately.

5. CAN I APPLY ONLINE?

Yes! You are encouraged to complete an online Application instead of a paper Application if you are able. The online Application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper Application. Visit sthopepublicschools.org or your child's school website to learn more about the online Application process.

6. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE?

Yes, if you want to participate in the meal program. Your child's Application is only good for one school year at a time and for the first few days of the following school year. You must send in a new Application by **September 23, 2016** 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.

7. I RECEIVE WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC) BENEFITS. CAN MY CHILDREN RECEIVE FREE MEALS?

Children in households participating in WIC **may** be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please complete an Application.

8. WILL THE INFORMATION I PROVIDE BE CHECKED?

Yes. School officials may verify the information on the Application at any time during the school year. You may be asked to send additional information to prove your income, or current eligibility for CalFresh, CalWORKS, or FDPIR.

9. IF I DO NOT QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER?

Yes, you can apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may be eligible for free and reduced-price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.

10. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION REGARDING MY APPLICATION?

You should talk to the school officials. You may also ask for a hearing by writing to: foodservice@sthopepublicschools.org or calling 916-649-7900.

11. 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.

12. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME?

List the amount that you **normally** receive. For example, if you normally make \$1,000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, enter on the Application that you made \$1,000 per month. If you normally receive overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only occasionally work overtime. If you have lost your job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.

13. WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT?

All household members must be included on the Application even if the individual does not receive income. Whenever this happens, please write a "0" in the income field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, the income will be counted as zero. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.

14. 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 excluded from income.

15. WHAT IF THERE IS NOT ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY?

List any additional household members on a second copy of the application, and attach it to your first application. You can pick up additional copies at the front office of your child's school site or request an electronic copy by emailing foodservice@sthopepublicschools.org.

16. MY FAMILY NEEDS ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE CAN APPLY FOR?

Yes. For information on CalFresh and CalWORKS, contact your county welfare department by reviewing the CalFresh Web page at <http://www.calfresh.ca.gov/PG839.htm> or by phone at 877-847-3663. For additional assistance in your local area, contact the California referral hotline by phone at 211.

If you have other questions or need help, please contact foodservice@sthopepublicschools.org or the front office at your child's school site.