

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Sterling Public School offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.00; lunch costs K-5 \$1.65; 6-12-\$2.00. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price for breakfast is 30 cents and lunches are 40 cents.

If your child(ren) qualified for free or reduced price meals at the end of last school year, you must submit a new application by August 29, 2008, in order to avoid an interruption in meal benefits.

1. **Do I need to fill out an application for each child?** No. Complete the application to apply for free or reduced price meals. 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: Greg Peterson, 250 Main Street, PO Box 39, Sterling, NE 68443, 402-866-4761.

2. **Who can get free meals?** Children in households getting Food Stamps or TANF and most foster children can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free price meals if your household income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines.

3. **Can homeless, runaway and migrant children get free meals?** Please call Sterling Public School, homeless liaison or migrant coordinator to see if your child(ren) qualify, if you have not been informed that they will get free meals.

4. **Who can get reduced price meals?** Your child(ren) can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Income Chart, shown on page 2 of the application.

5. **Should I fill out an application if I got a letter this school year saying my children are approved for free or reduced price meals?** Please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school at 402-866-4761 if you have questions.

6. **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.

7. **Will the information I give be checked?** Yes, we may ask you to send written proof.

8. **If I don't qualify now, may I apply later?** Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start getting Food Stamps, TANF or other benefits. If you lose your job, your children may be able to get free or reduced price meals.

9. **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 calling or writing to **Gale McDonald, Sterling Public School, 402-866-4761.**

your child(ren) do not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced price meals.

11. **Who should I include as members of my household?** You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends). You must include yourself and all children who live with you.

12. **What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount that you normally get. For example, if you normally get \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only got \$900, put down that you get \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get it only sometimes.

13. **If I qualify for free or reduced price meals will my children eligible for Kid's Connection: Nebraska Children's Health Insurance Program?** For more information on this program that provides health care coverage for children up to age 19, please call toll free 1-877-632-5437.

14. **We are in the military, do we include our housing allowance as income?** If your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. **All other allowances must be included in your gross income.**

If you have other questions or need help, call 402-866-4761.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gale McDonald". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gale" being more prominent than the last name "McDonald".

Gale McDonald

Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls within the limits on this chart.

FEDERAL INCOME CHART					
For School Year 2008-09					
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Twice per month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	19,240	1,604	802	740	370
2	25,900	2,159	1,080	997	499
3	32,560	2,714	1,357	1,253	627
4	39,220	3,269	1,635	1,509	755
5	45,880	3,824	1,912	1,765	883
6	52,540	4,379	2,190	2,021	1,011
7	59,200	4,934	2,467	2,277	1,139
8	65,860	5,489	2,745	2,534	1,267
Each additional person:	6,660	555	278	257	129

Privacy Act Statement: This explains how we will use the information you give us.

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Food Stamp Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We MAY share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

Non-Discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. 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 Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Part 1: Children in School (Use a separate application for each foster child)

Names of all children in school (First, Middle Initial, Last)	School Name	Grade	Food Stamp or TANF or FDPIR case number for each child. (not EBT number)

If you listed a Food Stamp/TANF/FDPIR case number of EACH child, skip to Part 4. Complete Part 3 for any child without a case number.

Part 2: Foster Child/Institutionalized Child

Check this box if this application is for a foster child or a child who is residing in an institution. List the amount of the child's personal use monthly income: \$ _____. If there is no income, record "0". Skip to Part 4.

Part 3: Total Household Gross Income—You must tell us how much and how often

1. Name List everyone in household and the income each earns or check the box at the right if they have no income	2. Gross Income and how often it was received								3. Check if NO income	
	Earnings from Work before deductions		Welfare, Child Support, Alimony		Pensions, Retirement, Social Security		All Other Income (Self Employment)			
	Income	How often	Income	How often	Income	How often	Income	How often		
										<input type="checkbox"/>
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Part 4: Signature and Social Security Number (Adult must sign)

An adult household member must sign the application. If Part 3 is completed, the adult signing the form must also list his/her Social Security Number or mark the "I do not have a Social Security Number" box. (See Privacy Act Statement on page 2)
 I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the school will get Federal funds based on the information I give. I understand that school officials may verify (check) the information. I understand that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted.

Sign here: _____ Print name: _____
 Address: _____ Zip _____ Phone Number: _____
 Social Security Number: _____ I do not have a Social Security Number

Part 5: Children's racial and ethnic identities (optional)

Mark one ethnic identity: -- and -- **Mark one or more racial identities:**
 Hispanic or Latino Asian Black or African American Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 Not Hispanic or Latino White American Indian or Alaska Native

Do not fill out this part. For School use only.

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly X 52; Every 2 Weeks X 26; Twice a Month X 24; Monthly X 12
 Total Household Size _____ Free Temporary Approval for Zero Income Until: _____
 Total Income \$ _____ per Reduced Results of Follow-up (45 days or less): _____
 Year Month 2 X Mo. Every 2 Wks Week
 Food Stamps/FDPIR/TANF Denied Reason for Denial: _____ Follow-up Signature _____ Date: _____
 Foster/Institutionalized Child Income too high Incomplete App. Date Withdrawn from School: _____
 Signature of Determining Official _____ Date Approved: _____
 Signature of Confirming Official (Verification only) _____ Date Confirmed: _____

Computing Income for Self-Employed Individuals

Individuals who are self-employed or engaged in farming may experience variations in cash flow and not easily report a monthly income. These people may use their 2007 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return Form 1040 to report self-employment income for the free and reduced price meal application. The income to be recorded is income derived from the business venture less operating costs incurred in the generation of that income. Deductions for personal expenses, such as interest on home mortgages, medical expenses, and other similar non-business items are not allowed in reducing gross business income.

USDA has announced that **losses** (negative numbers) on the lines listed below can be used to determine the **total** income for this attachment. If the total income is a negative number, it must then be recorded as zero on the application in the category labeled "All Other Income".

Zero income resulting from the use of Form 1040 does not require follow-up.

Please note: Line 7 cannot be reported as current income. Income from wages or salaries must be reported on the application for the most recent month.

Line 22 (total income) and line 37 (adjusted gross income) may not be used for purposes of applying for free and reduced price meals.

The required information for determining the allowable income from self-employment is to be taken from the **2007 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return Form 1040**.

Line 12, Business Income (or loss)	_____
Line 13, Capital Gain (or loss)	_____
Line 14, Other Gains (or losses)	_____
Line 17, Rental Real Estate, etc.	_____
Line 18, Farm Income (or loss)	_____

NOTE: If any members of the household have income from wages or salary, the gross income from last month must be reported on the application form.

This attachment is used only to report income from self-employment and/or farming.

Total of above lines: _____ equals annual self-employed income*

If the total of the above lines is a negative number, it must be changed to zero before it is transferred to the application.

* This figure is to be reported on the application under "All Other Income".