INFORMATION LETTER

Frequently Asked Questions About Free And Reduced Price School Meals

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Van Buren Community School District offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast cost \$1.45 for grades PK-6, \$1.55 for grades 7-12; lunch costs \$2.50 for grades PK-6 and \$2.60 for grades 7-12. Your children may qualify for free meals/milk or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is \$.30 for breakfast and \$.40 for lunch. Return or mail the completed application to: VB Elementary, 14574 Jefferson St, Douds IA 52551 or VB MS/HS, 405 4th St, Keosauqua IA 52565 or VBCSD Administration Office, 503 Henry Street, Keosauqua IA 52565.

Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

- 1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?
 - All children in households receiving benefits from Food Assistance, the Family Investment Program (FIP) or a few specific Medicaid programs are eligible for free or reduced price meals.
 - Foster children that are 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, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
 - Children may receive free or reduced price meals if your household's income is at or below the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines below. (Requires submitting an Application for Free and Reduced Price Meals/Milk.)

FEDERAL INCOME ELIGIBILITY GOIDELINES for School Year 2016-2019							
Household Size	Yearly	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly		
1	22,459	1,872	936	864	432		
2	30,451	2,538	1,269	1,172	586		
3	38,443	3,204	1,602	1,479	740		
4	46,435	3,870	1,935	1,786	893		
5	54,427	4,536	2,268	2,094	1,047		
6	62,419	5,202	2,601	2,401	1,201		
7	70,411	5,868	2,934	2,709	1,355		
8	78,403	6,534	3,267	3,016	1,508		
Each additional person:	7.992	666	333	308	154		

FEDERAL INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES for School Year 2018-2019

- 2. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS? No, but please read the letter carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your notification, contact: Lisa Stiles, Secretary to the Superintendent at 319-293-3334, ext. 1207 or toll free at 888-536-5777 or via email at lisa.stiles@van-burencsd.org immediately as eligibility for free or reduced price meals is extended to all school age children in a household. If you did not receive a letter from the school, but received a Free Lunch Notice from DHS, submit this letter to your children's school. You may add any students living in your household who are not listed on the letter. Also, if someone in your household receives food assistance and you did not receive either of these letters, you may complete an application listing the case number as this will qualify all school age children in your household for free meals. If you were informed that your children will get reduced price meals automatically, see the income guidelines above and if you feel you would qualify for free meal benefits, complete an application for free and reduced price meals.
- 3. WHAT IF WE HAVE FOSTER CHILDREN? Households with foster and non-foster children may choose to include the foster child as a household member, as this may help other children in the household qualify for benefits. If the foster family is not eligible for free or reduced price meal benefits, that does not prevent a foster child from receiving free meal benefits.
- 4. 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 haven't been told your children will get free meals, please contact: VB Elementary School, MaryDawn Schuck, Principal, 14574 Jefferson Street, Douds IA 52551 or call toll-free 1-888-536-5777 or via email at marydawn.schuck@van-burencsd.org.
- 5. 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 unless complete eligibility information is submitted, so be sure to complete all required information.
- 6. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year, through **10-4-18**. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. When the carry-over period

- ends, unless you are notified that your children will receive free meals or you submit an application that is approved, the children must pay full price for school meals. The school is not required to send a reminder or a notice of expired eligibility.
- 7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC <u>may</u> be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please send in an application.
- 8. 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.
- 9. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report. You are not required to provide proof with your application.
- 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 or reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit, if your household size goes up, or if you start getting Food Assistance, FIP or other benefits.
- 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 calling or writing to: **Dr. Pamela Ewell, Superintendent, Van Buren CSD, 503 Henry Street, Keosauqua IA 52565, 319-293-3334 or toll free at 888-536-5777.**
- 12. 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.
- 13. 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.
- 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, or receive Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance payments, 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. There are currently no active Military Housing Projects in Iowa as found on Active Military Housing Projects. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.
- 15. DO I NEED TO PROVIDE MY SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER? Only the last four digits of the Social Security Number of the household's primary wage earner or another adult household member (or an indication of "none") is needed.
- 16. WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY? List any additional household members on a Supplemental Worksheet, and attach it to your application. Contact Lisa Stiles, Secretary to the Superintendent at 319-293-3334, ext. 1207 or toll free at 888-536-5777 or via email at lisa.stiles@van-burencsd.org to receive a Supplemental Worksheet.
- 17. WHO CAN GET FREE MILK? If your school participates in the Special Milk Program for half day kindergarteners, your kindergarten child may be eligible for free milk. Children who buy extra milk with a meal or if they eat breakfast or lunch and have an afternoon milk break, they are not eligible to receive free milk.
- 18. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for Food Assistance or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call **1-877-347-5678**. Your children may be eligible for *hawk-i* (children's health insurance) or a waiver of school fees. Read the information on the back of the Application for *hawk-i* information. A school waiver form is available from your school.
- 19. CAN CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES GET FOOD SUBSTITUTIONS? If a child has a disability, as determined by a licensed medical professional, and the disability prevents the child from eating the regular school meal, the school will make substitutions prescribed by the licensed medical professional. If a substitution is needed, there will be no extra charge for the meal. Please note, however, that the school is not required to make a substitution for a food allergy, unless it meets the definition of disability. Please call the school for further information.

If you have other questions or need help, call 319-293-3334 or 888-536-5777.

2018-2019 Iowa Application for Free & Reduced Price School Meals/Milk Return completed form to: Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil). This application cannot be approved unless complete eligibility information is submitted.

STEP 1 List Al	LL Household Members who are i	nfants, children, and students	s up to and including grade 12	(if more spaces are required for addition	al names, attach the supplemental worksheet.)
Definition of Household Member : "Anyone who is with you and shares incom		MI Child's Last Name	e Date of Birth S	Student? Child's School	Grade Foster Homeless, Child Migrant, Runaway
expenses, even if not related the control of the co					
and children who meet the definition of Homeless , Mic	nrant				that apply that
or Runaway are eligible for meals. Read How to Apply	free				
Free and Reduced Price S Meals for more information.	school /				O G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G
wears for more information.					
Do any	/ Household Members (including y	vou) currently participate in (one or more of the following a	ssistance programs: Food Assis	stance FIP or FDPIR?
			number here then go to STEP 4 (Do		stance, Fir, or FBritt:
Write only one case nur card numbers are not ac	mber in this space. Medicaid, Title XIX & EB ceptable.)			
STEP 3 Report	t Income for ALL Household Men	nbers (Skip this step if you answ	vered 'Yes' to STEP 2)		
	A. Child Income	(Composite of the 1900 dillotte			How often?
Are you unsure what income to include		earn or receive income. Please include	the TOTAL gross income earned by all I	Household Members listed in STEP 1 here.	
here? Please read How	B. All Adult Household Members	(including yourself)		\$	
to Apply for Free and Reduced Price	List all Household Members not listed	I in STEP 1 (including yourself) even it			ve income, report total gross income (before taxes)
School Meals for				r '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certify names, attach the supplemental workshe	ring (promising) that there is no income to report. et.
more information. The Sources of	1		How often? D. Public Assista		Pensions/Retirement/ How often?
Income for Children section will help	Name of Adult Household Members (First and Las	t) C. Earnings from Work Weekly Bi-Wee	ekly 2x Monthly Monthly Annually Child Support		All Other Income Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Month Monthly
you with the Child Income question.		\$ 0	<u> </u>		
The Sources of Income for Adults		s			
section will help you			000\$		
with the All Adult Household	F. Total Household Members	G Last Four Digits of S	Social Security Number (SSN) of		
Members section.	(Children and Adults)		or Other Adult Household Member		Check if no SSN
STEP 4 Contact	Information and Adult Signature	•			
"I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal funds, and that school officials may verify (check) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws."					
Street Address (if availa	able) Apt. #	City	State Zip	Daytime Phone (optional) Email (optional)
Printed name of adult co	ompleting the form	Signature of a	dult completing the form		Today's date
DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE. FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY. Date Received by SFA:					
Annual income conversion: Weekly x 52; Bi-Weekly x 26; 2 Times per Month x 24; Monthly x 12					
Household Income: \$					
Determining Official		Effective Date Confirmin	ig Official De	ate Follow-up Signature	 Date

OPTIONAL Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities	
We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. Thi your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals. If you do not select race or	is information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect or ethnicity, one will be selected for you based on visual observation.
Ethnicity (check one): Hispanic or Latino Not Hispanic of	or Latino
Race (check one or more): American Indian or Alaskan Native	☐ Asian ☐ Black or African American ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander ☐ White
free and reduced price meal eligibility information with Medicaid & <i>hawk-i</i> , to information. Specifically, we will give them your child's name, your name & and contact you. They are not allowed to use the information from your free to share this information, it will not affect your child's eligibility for free or recinformation below. If you want further information, you may call <i>hawk-i</i> at	reduced price meals can also get free or low-cost health insurance for their children. The law requires public schools to share your the State's medical insurance program for children. Private schools, RCCIs and childcare organizations may choose to share this address. Medicaid & <i>hawk-i</i> can only use the information to identify children who may be eligible for free or low-cost health insurance are and reduced meal application for any other purpose or to share it with any other entity or program. You are not required to allow us duced price meals. If you do NOT want your information shared with Medicaid or <i>hawk-i</i> , you must tell us by completing the at 1-800-257-8563. Also, if you are already receiving Medicaid or <i>hawk-i</i> , please sign below. This will avoid another contact. mation from my free and reduced price meal application with Medicaid or <i>hawk-i</i> .
Parent/Guardian Name (Printed) Signature	eDate
cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must in four digits of the social security number is not required when you apply Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIF social security number. We will use your information to determine if you programs. We MAY share your eligibility information with education, he reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations USDA Nondiscrimination Statement: In accordance with Federal offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administer reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or accordance with disabilities who require alternative means of communical Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals we 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Prohttp://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USD request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your program in the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your program in the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your program in the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992.	civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, ring USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or civity conducted or funded by USDA. Cation for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) in languages other than English. Congram Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: DA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To our completed form or letter to USDA by:
(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. *only use this address if you are filing a complaint of discrimination	lowa Non-Discrimination Statement: "It is the policy of this CNP provider not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, or religion in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the lowa Code section 216.6, 216.7, and 216.9. If you have questions or grievances related to compliance with this policy by this CNP Provider, please contact the lowa Civil Rights Commission, Grimes State Office building, 400 E. 14 th St. Des Moines, IA 50319-1004; phone number 515-281-4121, 800-457-4416; website: https://icrc.iowa.gov/ ."
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.	Translated applications are available at: http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/translated-applications
L	Optional Waiver Information

2018-2019 Iowa Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals/Optional Supplemental Worksheet Additional Children in Your Household (not listed on page 1) Student? Homeless Migrant, **Child's First Name** MI Child's Last Name Child's School Grade Runaway Check all that apply Any income earned by the above listed children should be included under Step 3 A on the first page of the application. Additional Adults in Your Household (Not listed on page 1) How often? How often? Public Assistance/ Pensions/Retirement/ Child Support All Other Income /Alimony Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Month Monthly Annually Name of Adult Household Members (First and Last) Earnings from Work **Self-Employment Income Calculations** This guidance will assist you in calculating the amount to report if you engage in farming, are self-employed or have income from other sources. Self-employed persons may use income tax records for the preceding calendar year as a base to project the current year's net income, unless the current monthly income provides a more accurate measure. Report 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 payments, medical expenses, and other similar non-business deductions are not allowed in reducing gross business income. Additional income from other kinds of employment must be treated as separate and apart from the income generated or lost from your business venture. For example, if you operated a business at a net loss, but held additional employment for which a salary was received, the income for purposes of applying for reduced price or free meals would be the income from the salary only. The loss from the business cannot be deducted from a positive income earned in other employment. For purposes of this application, it is not possible to report a negative income from any business venture. The least income possible is zero (no income). The necessary information for arriving at allowable income from private business operation may be taken from vour most recent U.S. Individual Income Tax Return - Form 1040. Add together the amounts reported on the following lines: LINE 12 \$______ Business Income or (Loss) LINE 13 \$_____ Capital Gain or (Loss) LINE 14 \$ Other Gains or (Losses) LINE 17 \$______ Rental real estate, royalties, partnerships, S corporations, trusts, etc. LINE 18 \$_____ Farm Income or (Loss) _____ Gross Annual Income Before Any Deductions.

(Gross Annual Income ÷ 12 = Computed Monthly Income.) The computed monthly income should be reported in Step 3 on the Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals under All Other Income.

TOTAL \$

STUDENT FEE WAIVER FORM 2018-2019

Van Buren Community School District

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION ON THIS FORM TO HAVE FEES ADJUSTED.

RETURN COMPLETED AND SIGNED FEE WAIVER FORM TO THE VBCSD DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATION CENTER TO BE PROCESSED. PLEASE COMPLETE ONLY ONE FEE

WAIVER PER FAMILY.

If your child qualifies for free or reduced price meals, you may also be eligible for other benefits. One of these benefits is school fees. If you sign this waiver, your child will be considered for a full, partial or temporary waiver of textbook rental fees. **This waiver does not carry over from year to year and must be completed annually.**

Please print clearly.	Date Completed: _	
Name of parent, guardian, or legal/a	actual custodian	
Street Address		
City, State, Zip		
Student Name	School	Grade
Allow my child(ren)'s name and me Yes □ No □	al eligibility to be shared with staff to a	djust Textbook Rental Fee.
	D for the release of information regardi Without your signature, this application	
	information that will show that I applie my rights to confidentiality for waiver	
Signature of parent, guardian or leg	jal/actual custodian	Date
Full Partial	Temporary Approval	
Expires: Mo Day		2018-07-25