

**Rich Township High School District 227**  
**20000 Governors Drive – Suite 200 • Olympia Fields, Illinois 60461**  
**Telephone 708-679-5800 • Fax 708-679-5654**

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Rich Township High School District 227 offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.25; lunch costs \$2.25. Your children may qualify for free or for reduced-price meals or free milk. Reduced-price is \$.30 for breakfast and \$.40 for lunch.

To apply for free or reduced-price meals, use the attached Household Eligibility Application. **Complete One Application Per Household Per School District.** We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. **A completed application needs to be brought into the school on the designated registration dates of August 2, 3 & 4, 2011 unless your student receives a Direct Certification notice from the Food Service Office after you have received the registration packet.**

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

**FEDERAL INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES** (Effective from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012)  
**Reduced-Price Meals - 185% Federal Poverty Guideline**

Household size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$ 20,147	\$ 1,679	\$ 840	\$ 775	\$ 388
2	27,214	2,268	1,134	1,047	524
3	34,281	2,857	1,429	1,319	660
4	41,348	3,446	1,723	1,591	796
5	48,415	4,035	2,018	1,863	932
6	55,482	4,624	2,312	2,134	1,067
7	62,549	5,213	2,607	2,406	1,203
8	69,616	5,802	2,901	2,678	1,339
<b>Each Additional Family Member</b>	+7,067	+589	+295	+272	+136

- 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 Household Eligibility Application for all students in your household per district.** We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. **Return the completed application to your school on the designated registration dates.**
- Who can get free meals?** All children in households receiving benefits from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and/or are foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household's gross income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant also qualify for free meals. If you haven't been told your children will get free meals, please contact the Food Service District Office to see if your child(ren) qualifies.
- Who can get reduced-price meals?** Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced-price limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines Chart, shown above.
- A member of my household received SNAP or TANF benefits. The school sent a letter stating that my child is automatically approved for free meals based on direct certification. Do I need to do anything more to ensure that my child receives free meals?** No. You do not need to do anything more to receive the free meals for your child. If you have students not listed on the letter, contact the Food Service District Office immediately. If you do not wish to receive the free meals, you should follow the steps outlined in the letter from the school to notify the Food Service District Office personnel immediately.
- 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. You must submit or send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
- I get WIC (Women, Infants, and Children). 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 the attached application.
- Will the information I give be checked?** Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof.
- 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.
- 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: Rich Township High School District 227, Attn: Ilandus Hampton, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, 20000 Governors Dr. – Suite 200, Olympia Fields, IL 60461, call 708-679-5719 or email: [ihampton@rich227.org](mailto:ihampton@rich227.org).
- May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen?** Yes. You and your child(ren) do not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced price meals.
- 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) who share income and expenses. You must include yourself and all children living with you. If you live with other people who are economically independent (for example, people who you do not support, who do not share income with you or your children, and who pay a pro-rated share of expenses), do not include them.
- 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, put down that you made \$1,000 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.
- We are in the military. Do we include our housing allowance as income?** If you receive an off-base housing allowance, it must be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income.
- My spouse is deployed to a combat zone. Is their combat pay counted as income?** No, if the combat pay is received in addition to the basic pay because of the deployment and it wasn't received before they were deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.
- My family needs more help. Are there other programs we might apply for?** To find out how to apply for SNAP, TANF or other assistance benefits, contact your local Department of Human Services office or call (800) 843-6154 (voice) or (800) 447-6404 (TTY).

Sincerely,

*Pamela E. Wynne*

District Supervisor of Food Service  
Office (708) 679-5728 or [pwynne@rich227.org](mailto:pwynne@rich227.org)