

Union Elementary School District #62

3834 S. 91st Avenue
Tolleson, AZ 85353

Achievement
Today
for an
Exceptional
Tomorrow



Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Union School District** offers healthy meals every school day. **Breakfast costs \$0**; lunch costs **\$0**. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals. Reduced-price is **\$0 for breakfast** and **\$0** for lunch. This packet includes an application for free or reduced-price meal benefits, as well as a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. WHO CAN GET FREE MEALS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from **SNAP, FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations)** or **TANF**, can get free meals regardless of your income.
- 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 can get free or reduced-price meals if your household's gross income is within the limits on 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.

Household Size	Yearly Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income
1	\$21,775	\$1,815	\$419
2	\$29,471	\$2,456	\$567
3	\$37,167	\$3,098	\$715
4	\$44,863	\$3,739	\$863
5	\$52,559	\$4,380	\$1,011
6	\$60,255	\$5,022	\$1,159
7	\$67,951	\$5,663	\$1,307
8	\$75,647	\$6,304	\$1,455
Each additional person:	\$7,696	\$642	\$148

- 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 call or e-mail **Dolores Villanueva 623-478-5005** dvillanueva@uesd.org
- SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS?** No, but please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school Hurley **623-478-5122** or **Dos Rios 623-474-7033** if you have questions.
- 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: **Hurley Ranch, Dos Rios or Union School.**
- 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 Eligibility Income Chart, shown above.

6. 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 and for the first few days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
7. 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.
8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes and we may also ask you to send written proof.
9. 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 and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
10. 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: **Susan O'Rielly 623-478-5005**.
11. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be U.S. citizens to qualify for free or reduced price meals.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE INCLUDE OUR HOUSING ALLOWANCE AS INCOME? If you get 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.
15. MY SPOUSE IS DEPLOYED TO A COMBAT ZONE. IS HER COMBAT PAY COUNTED AS INCOME? No, if the combat pay is received in addition to her basic pay because of her deployment and it wasn't received before she was deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your child's school for more information.
16. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? No. Our district does not have the option to apply for free or reduced-price meals online at this time. Please contact **Kendell Paty 623-478-5010** and refer to the information above to complete a paper application.
17. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for **SNAP** or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-800-352-8401.

If you have other questions or need help, call **623-478-5010**
Si necesita ayuda, por favor llame al teléfono 623-478-5005
Si vous voudriez d'aide, contactez nous au numero: 623-478-5005

Sincerely,

Kendell Paty
Food Service Director
Union School District

Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals

Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil).

STEP 1 List ALL Household Members who are infants, children, and students up to and including grade 12 (if more spaces are required for additional names, attach another sheet of paper)

Definition of Household Member: "Anyone who is living with you and shares income and expenses, even if not related."
Children in **Foster care** and children who meet the definition of **Homeless, Migrant or Runaway** are eligible for free meals. Read **How to Apply for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals** for more information.

Child's First Name	MI	Child's Last Name	<input type="checkbox"/> Check box if child is a student at Union School District <input type="checkbox"/> Check box if child is a Foster Child or is Homeless, Migrant, or Runaway	Homeless, Migrant, Runaway		
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

THIS SPACE IS FOR SCHOOL OFFICIAL USE ONLY
 Application is complete
 Determining Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Determined Eligibility: FREE REDUCED PAID ERROR-PRONE?
 Selected for Verification
 Confirming Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Follow-Up Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____
 NOTES: _____

STEP 2 Do any Household Members (including you) currently participate in one or more of the following assistance programs: SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR?

Write only one case number in this space.

SNAP TANF FDPIR

If **NO** > Complete STEP 3. If **YES** > Check which program and write a case number here, then go to STEP 4 (Do not complete STEP 3)

Case Number: _____

STEP 3 Report Income for ALL Household Members (Skip this step if you answered 'Yes' to STEP 2)

Please read **How to Apply for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals** for more information. The **Sources of Income for Children** section will help you with the **Child Income** question. The **Sources of Income for Adults** section will help you with the **All Adult Household Members** section.

A. Child Income
Sometimes children in the household earn income. Please include the TOTAL income earned by all Household Members listed in STEP 1 here.

Child income: \$ _____ How often? Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Month Monthly

B. All Adult Household Members (including yourself)
List all Household Members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself) **even if they do not receive income**. For each Household Member listed, if they do receive income, report total income for each source in whole dollars only. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0'. If you enter '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report.

Name of Adult Household Members (First and Last)	Earnings from Work	How often?				Public Assistance/ Child Support/Alimony	How often?				Pensions/Retirement/ All Other Income	How often?			
		Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly		Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly		Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly
	\$ _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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	\$ _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	\$ _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

C. Total Household Members (Children and Adults)

Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of Primary Wage Earner or Other Adult Household Member X X X X X X

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 available) _____ Apt # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone and Email (optional) _____

Printed name of adult completing the form _____ Signature of adult completing the form _____ Today's date _____

OPTIONAL

Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities

We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals.

Ethnicity (check one):

- Hispanic or Latino
- Not Hispanic or Latino

Race (check one or more):

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White

SHARING INFORMATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

To save you time and effort, the information you gave on your Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals may be shared with other programs for which your children may qualify. **For the following programs, we must have your permission to share your information. Sending in this form will not change whether your children get free or reduced-price meals.**

- NO! I **DO NOT** want information from my Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals shared with any of these programs.
- Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals with **[NAME OF PROGRAM SPECIFIC TO YOUR SCHOOL/DISTRICT]**.
- Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals with **[NAME OF PROGRAM SPECIFIC TO YOUR SCHOOL/DISTRICT]**.
- Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals with **[NAME OF PROGRAM SPECIFIC TO YOUR SCHOOL/DISTRICT]**.

If you checked yes to any or all of the boxes above, fill-in the information below. Your information will be shared only with the programs you checked.

Child's Name: _____ School: _____
 Child's Name: _____ School: _____
 Child's Name: _____ School: _____
 Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____
 Printed Name: _____ Address: _____

For more information, you may call **[NAME]** at **[PHONE]** or e-mail at **[E-MAIL ADDRESS]**.
Return this form to: **[ADDRESS]** by **[DATE]**.

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 last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), 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.

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Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish).

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