

Media Release: Application Free and Reduced-Price School Meals

{Neches ISD} announced its policy today for providing free and reduced-price meals for children served under the attached current income eligibility guidelines. Each school/site or the central office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by anyone on request.

Starting on *{August 8, 2023}* will begin distributing letters to the households of the children in the district *{Neches ISD}* about eligibility benefits and any actions households need to take to apply for these benefits. Applications also are available at *{1509 An County Road 3461 Neches, TX 76776}*.

Criteria for Free and Reduced-Price Meal Benefits

The following criteria will be used to determine a child's eligibility for free or reduced-price meal benefits:

Income

1. Household income that is at or below the income eligibility levels

Categorical (Automatic) Eligibility

2. Household receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

Program Participant

3. Child's status as a foster child, homeless, runaway, migrant, or displaced by a declared disaster
4. Child's enrollment in Head Start or Even Start

Income Eligibility

For those households that qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on income, an adult in the household must complete an application for free and reduced-price meals and return it to *{Angela Douglas PEIMS/Administrative Assistant 903-584-3443}*. Those individuals filling out the application will need to provide the following information:

1. Names of all household members
2. Amount, frequency, and source of current income for each household member
3. Last 4 digits of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application or, if the adult does not have a social security number, check the box for "No Social Security number"
4. Signature of an adult household member attesting that the information provided is correct

Categorical or Program Eligibility

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted 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; or (2) fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: Program.Intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

{Neches ISD} is working with local agencies to identify all children who are categorically and program eligible. *{Neches ISD}* will notify the households of these children that they do not need to complete an application. Any household that does not receive a letter and feels it should have should contact *{Angela Douglas, PEIMS/Administrative Assistant 903-584-3443}*. Any household that wishes to decline benefits should contact *{Angela Douglas, PEIMS/Administrative Assistant 903-584-3443}*.

Applications may be submitted anytime during the school year. The information provided by households on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility. Applications may also be verified by the school officials at any time during the school year.

Determining Eligibility

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, *{Angela Douglas, reviewing official}* will review applications and determine eligibility. Households or guardians dissatisfied with the Reviewing Official's eligibility determination may wish to discuss the decision with the Reviewing Official on an informal basis. Households wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to *{Cory Hines, hearing official, Superintendent, PO Box 310 Neches ISD}*.

Unexpected Circumstances

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the attached current income eligibility guidelines.

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INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Effective from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES	REDUCED PRICE MEALS - 185 %					FREE MEALS - 130 %				
	ANNUAL	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY
48 CONTIGUOUS STATES, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, GUAM, AND TERRITORIES											
1	14,580	26,973	2,248	1,124	1,038	519	18,954	1,580	790	729	365
2	19,720	36,482	3,041	1,521	1,404	702	25,636	2,137	1,069	986	493
3	24,860	45,991	3,833	1,917	1,769	885	32,318	2,694	1,347	1,243	622
4	30,000	55,500	4,625	2,313	2,135	1,068	39,000	3,250	1,625	1,500	750
5	35,140	65,009	5,418	2,709	2,501	1,251	45,682	3,807	1,904	1,757	879
6	40,280	74,518	6,210	3,105	2,867	1,434	52,364	4,364	2,182	2,014	1,007
7	45,420	84,027	7,003	3,502	3,232	1,616	59,046	4,921	2,461	2,271	1,136
8	50,560	93,536	7,795	3,898	3,598	1,799	65,728	5,478	2,739	2,528	1,264
For each add'l family member, add	5,140	9,509	793	397	366	183	6,682	557	279	257	129
ALASKA											
1	18,210	33,689	2,808	1,404	1,296	648	23,673	1,973	987	911	456
2	24,640	45,584	3,799	1,900	1,754	877	32,032	2,670	1,335	1,232	616
3	31,070	57,480	4,790	2,395	2,211	1,106	40,391	3,366	1,683	1,554	777
4	37,500	69,375	5,782	2,891	2,669	1,335	48,750	4,063	2,032	1,875	938
5	43,930	81,271	6,773	3,387	3,126	1,563	57,109	4,760	2,380	2,197	1,099
6	50,360	93,166	7,764	3,882	3,584	1,792	65,468	5,456	2,728	2,518	1,259
7	56,790	105,062	8,756	4,378	4,041	2,021	73,827	6,153	3,077	2,840	1,420
8	63,220	116,957	9,747	4,874	4,499	2,250	82,186	6,849	3,425	3,161	1,581
For each add'l family member, add	6,430	11,096	992	496	458	229	8,358	697	349	322	161
HAWAII											
1	16,770	31,025	2,586	1,293	1,194	597	21,801	1,817	909	839	420
2	22,680	41,958	3,497	1,749	1,614	807	29,484	2,457	1,229	1,134	567
3	28,590	52,892	4,408	2,204	2,035	1,018	37,167	3,098	1,549	1,430	715
4	34,500	63,825	5,319	2,660	2,455	1,228	44,850	3,738	1,869	1,725	863
5	40,410	74,759	6,230	3,115	2,876	1,438	52,533	4,378	2,189	2,021	1,011
6	46,320	85,692	7,141	3,571	3,296	1,648	60,216	5,018	2,509	2,316	1,158
7	52,230	96,626	8,053	4,027	3,717	1,859	67,899	5,659	2,830	2,612	1,306
8	58,140	107,559	8,964	4,482	4,137	2,069	75,582	6,299	3,150	2,907	1,454
For each add'l family member, add	5,910	10,934	912	456	421	211	7,683	641	321	296	148