

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Income eligibility guidelines for free and reduced-price meals announced

Aug. 14, 2013 — The Kern County Superintendent of Schools office and all of Kern County’s 47 public school districts announce the policy for providing free and reduced-price meals for children served under the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program. Each school or district office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

Effective July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014, participants from households with incomes at or below the following levels may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals or free milk.

**Free Eligibility Scale
Meals, Snacks, and Milk**

Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$14,937	\$1,245	\$623	\$575	\$288
2	\$20,163	\$1,681	\$841	\$776	\$388
3	\$25,389	\$2,116	\$1,058	\$977	\$489
4	\$30,615	\$2,552	\$1,276	\$1,178	\$589
5	\$35,841	\$2,987	\$1,494	\$1,379	\$690
6	\$41,067	\$3,423	\$1,712	\$1,580	\$790
7	\$46,293	\$3,858	\$1,929	\$1,781	\$891
8	\$51,519	\$4,294	\$2,147	\$1,982	\$991
For each additional family member, add:	+\$5,226	+\$436	+\$218	+\$201	+\$101

**Reduced-Price Eligibility Scale
Meals and Snacks**

Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$21,257	\$1,772	\$886	\$818	\$409
2	\$28,694	\$2,392	\$1,196	\$1,104	\$552
3	\$36,131	\$3,011	\$1,506	\$1,390	\$695
4	\$43,568	\$3,631	\$1,816	\$1,676	\$838
5	\$51,005	\$4,251	\$2,126	\$1,962	\$981
6	\$58,442	\$4,871	\$2,436	\$2,248	\$1,124
7	\$65,879	\$5,490	\$2,745	\$2,534	\$1,267
8	\$73,316	\$6,110	\$3,055	\$2,820	\$1,410
For each additional family member, add:	+\$7,437	+\$620	+\$310	+\$287	+\$144

Children from households whose income is at or below the levels shown here are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Children who receive Food Stamp (CalFresh), California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payments (Kin-GAP), Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) benefits or are in Foster Care are automatically eligible for free meals regardless of the income of the household in which they reside.

Application forms are being distributed to all households with a letter informing them of the availability of free and reduced-price meals for enrolled children. Applications are also available at the principal's office in each school. To apply for free or reduced-price meal benefits, households must complete an application and return it to the school for processing. Applications may be submitted at any time during the school year. The information households provide on the application will be used to determine meal eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school or program officials.

Requirements for school officials to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits are as follows: For households receiving Food Stamp (CalFresh), CalWORKs, Kin-GAP, or FDPIR benefits – applications need only include the enrolled child(ren)'s name, Food Stamp (CalFresh), CalWORKs, Kin-GAP, or FDPIR case number, and the signature of an adult household member. For households who do not list a Food Stamp, CalWORKs, Kin-GAP, or FDPIR case number, the application must include the names of all household members, the amount and source of the income received by each household member, and the signature and corresponding last 4 digits of the Social Security number of the signing adult household member. If the household member who signs the application does not have a Social Security number, the household member must indicate on the application that a Social Security number is not available.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, the determining official(s), as designated by the sponsor/agency, shall review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the eligibility ruling may discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. Parents may also make a formal request for an appeal hearing of the decision and may do so orally or in writing with the sponsor/agency's hearing official. Parents or guardians should contact their child(ren)'s school(s) for specific information regarding the name of the determining official and/or hearing official for a specific school, agency, or district.

Households that receive Food Stamp, CalWORKs, Kin-GAP, or FDPIR benefits may not have to complete an *Application for Free or Reduced-Price Meals or Free Milk*. School officials will determine eligibility for free meals based on documentation obtained directly from the Food Stamp, CalWORKs, Kin-GAP, or FDPIR office that a child is a member of a household currently receiving Food Stamp or FDPIR benefits or an assistance unit receiving CalWORKs or Kin-GAP benefits. School officials will notify households of their eligibility, but those who do not want their child(ren) to receive free meals must contact the school. Food Stamp, CalWORKs, Kin-GAP, and FDPIR households should complete an application if they are not notified of their eligibility.

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 levels shown above.

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**KERN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS
2013-14**

Arvin Union School District
Bakersfield City School District
Beardsley School District
Belridge Elementary School District
Blake School District
Buttonwillow Union School District
Caliente Union School District
Delano Joint Union High School District
Delano Union School District
Di Giorgio School District
Edison School District
Elk Hills School District
El Tejon Unified School District
Fairfax School District
Fruitvale School District
General Shafter School District
Greenfield Union School District
Grimmway Academy Charter School
Kern County Superintendent of Schools
Kern High School District
Kernville Union School District
Lakeside Union Elementary School District
Lamont School District
Linns Valley-Poso Flat Union School
District Lost Hills Union School District
Maple School District
Maricopa Unified School District
McFarland Unified School District
McKittrick School District
Midway School District
Mojave Unified School District
Muroc Joint Unified School District
Norris School District
Panama-Buena Vista Union School
District
Pond Union School District
Richland School District
Rio Bravo-Greeley Union School District
Rosedale Union School District
Semitropic School District
Sierra Sands Unified School District
Southern Kern Unified School District
South Fork Union School District
Standard School District
Taft City School District

Vineland School District
Wasco Union High School District
Wasco Union School District