

**MEDIA RELEASE
2008-2009
POLICY FOR PROVIDING FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS**

August 9, 2008

Radford City Schools

today announced its policy for providing free or reduced price meals for children served under the National School Lunch, and/or School Breakfast Programs. Each school and/or central school nutrition office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

The household size and income criteria identified below will be used to determine eligibility for free or reduced price meal benefits. Children from households whose income is at or below the levels shown may be eligible for either free or reduced price meals. Children who are members of food stamp households or who receive Temporary Assistance For Needy Families (TANF) may be automatically eligible for free meals. Children who are homeless, migrant, or runaway may also be automatically eligible for free meals. Foster children, who are the legal responsibility of a welfare agency or court, may be eligible for benefits regardless of the income of the household with whom they reside. Eligibility for the foster child is based on the child's income. Children who are members of households participating in WIC may also be eligible for free or reduced-price meals based on the household's income.

Household Size	Maximum Household Income For Free Meals	Household Income For Reduced Price Meals
1	\$13,520	\$13,520.01 - \$19,240
2	\$18,200	\$18,200.01 - \$25,900
3	\$22,880	\$22,880.01 - \$32,560
4	\$27,560	\$27,560.01 - \$39,220
5	\$32,240	\$32,240.01 - \$45,880
6	\$36,920	\$36,920.01 - \$52,540
7	\$41,600	\$41,600.01 - \$59,200
8	\$46,280	\$46,280.01 - \$65,860
For Each Additional Family Member - ADD	+\$4,680	+ \$6,660

Application forms are being distributed to all households with a letter informing households of the availability of free or reduced price meals for their children. Applications are also available at the principal's office in each school and at the central office. To apply for free or reduced price meals, households must only fill out one application per household and return it to the school division. Applications may be submitted at any time during the school year. The information households provide on the application will be used for determining eligibility and verification of data. Applications may be verified at any time during the school year by school or other program officials. For school officials to determine eligibility for free or reduced price benefits, households receiving food stamps or Temporary Assistance For Needy Families (TANF) only have to list their child(ren)'s name, and food stamp or TANF case number, and an adult household member must sign the application. Households who do not list a food stamp or TANF case number, including WIC households, must list the names of all household

members, the amount and frequency of the income received by each household member, and the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. If the household member does not have a social security number, the household member must indicate that a social security number is not available. The application must be signed by an adult household member in order to be approved.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced price meal policy,

Lenora R. Williams, Director of School Nutrition

will review applications and determine eligibility. An application for free or reduced price meals cannot be approved unless it is complete. Households dissatisfied with the ruling of the eligibility determining official may wish to discuss the decision with the official on an informal basis. Households wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either verbally or in writing to:

Dr. Chuck Bishop, Superintendent, 1612 Wadsworth St., Radford, VA 24141 731-3647

Households may apply for free or reduced price meals at any time during the school year. If a household is not eligible now but has a change, such as a decrease in household income, an increase in household size, becomes unemployed or qualifies for food stamps or TANF, the household should contact the school for an application. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the levels shown in the income chart.

Households that receive food stamps or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) may not have to complete an application for free or reduced price student meals. School officials will determine eligibility for free meals based on documentation, obtained directly from the Virginia Department of Social Services, that a child is a member of a household currently receiving food stamps or is receiving TANF. School officials will notify these households of their eligibility. Households who are notified of their eligibility, but who do not want their children to receive free meals, must contact the school. Food stamp and TANF households must complete an application if they are not notified of their automatic eligibility within the first 10 days of the new school year.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability or retaliation. If you require this information in alternative format (Braille, large print, audiotape) contact the USDA TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice or TDD). To file a complaint alleging discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992. TDD users can contact USDA through local relay or the Federal relay at (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (relay voice users). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.