

## Child Nutrition Programs

### Grass Lake Free & Reduced Lunch Information and Application Form

Students of families who are eligible for free and reduced breakfasts and lunches will receive them in full anonymity. Parents are encouraged to complete the forms to check for eligibility. Go to [www.grasslakeschools.com](http://www.grasslakeschools.com), then Departments, then Food Services for access to an application. When opening the file the application will be the first to appear. Below the application will be instructions, along with "Frequently Asked Questions".

### Federal Requirements for Student Nutrition Programs

If school districts participate in the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, or the Special Milk Program, they must provide both parents and the public with information about free and reduced price meals and/or free milk near the beginning of each school year. Districts also must provide parents with an application form. Districts may not disclose children's free and reduced eligibility status, unless the requestor of such information falls into one of the categories specified in the National School Lunch Act.

The USDA's document entitled Eligibility Manual for School Meals contains information on federal requirements regarding the determination and verification of eligibility for free and reduced price meals in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. The document contains information about what the application for these programs is to contain, including a link to an online application. The document also contains information describing to whom (pp. 82-83), and under what conditions, information regarding free and reduced eligibility status may be disclosed (pp. 80-89).

- Download the Eligibility Manual for School Meals, which contains relevant notices in the appendices, at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/eligibility-manual-school-meals>

Striving to reduce paperwork, Congress has incorporated three alternative provisions into the standard requirements for annual determinations of eligibility for free- and reduced-price school meals. These alternative provisions are available at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/provisions-1-2-and-3>.

- In schools where at least 80 percent of enrolled students have free or reduced price meal eligibility, annual notification of program availability and certification only needs to occur once every 2 consecutive school years.

The amended Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 requires school districts to inform and update the public (including parents, students, and others in the community) about the content and implementation of their local school wellness policies. School districts also must periodically measure and report on implementation of their local school wellness policies, including: (1) the extent to which schools under the jurisdiction of the local school district are in compliance with its local school wellness policy; (2) the extent to which the local school wellness policy of the local district compares to model local school wellness policies; and (3) a description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the local school wellness policy. On July 29, 2016, the USDA published in the Federal Register its final rules for local school wellness policies: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-07-29/pdf/2016-17230.pdf>.

The rules become effective, and compliance must begin, on August 29, 2016. School districts would be wise to check with the USDA's website, <http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/child-nutrition-programs>, for any new guidance documents, FAQs, and other child nutrition-related information that may be issued in the coming weeks.

With the help of school food service staff, LEAs must implement procedures to enable parents and guardians to request modifications to meal services for their children with disabilities. LEAs must notify parents and guardians of both the process to (1) request meal modifications that accommodate the child's needs and (2) for resolving disputes. The hearing process must follow the necessary procedural requirements: notice, right to counsel, opportunity to participate, examination of the record.