

LAKE STATION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

When the 2021-2022 school year ends, so do free meals for every student. While the federal government funded a program that allowed all students access to free meals during the COVID 19 pandemic, Congress recently declined to continue funding this program, so our school corporation will have to return to the traditional eligibility requirements for free, reduced and paid meals. This means that for School Year 2022-2023, our school corporation will process free and reduced-price meal benefit applications.

The Food Service Department does have the ability to Directly Certify students who receive SNAP, TANF, some Medicaid, are certified as homeless, migrant, or are wards of the state (foster children). Households who are directly certified will be notified in writing of the free or reduced-price meal status prior to the start of school and will not need to complete an application.

Meal benefit applications will not be available until after July 1*. Households are encouraged to apply before the start of the school year to avoid unpaid meal charges. Students who are not approved free or reduced-price meal benefits before the start of the school year will be classified as paid status and meal charges may begin to accumulate starting the first day of school. Meal charges accrued before the approval of a meal benefit application will be the responsibility of the household.

You do NOT need to complete an application if:

- You receive notification that your child (ren) are directly certified.
- You know your household does not qualify for meal benefits. (Please have money in your child's account on the first day of school.)

*Applications received prior to July 1 will not be effective for the 2022-2023 school year.

For assistance, please contact our Food Service Department at 219-962-1190 ext 1090.

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