

The Granite Falls School District serves meals each school day. Students may buy lunch for \$2.75 at elementary schools and for \$3.00 at middle and senior high schools. Breakfast is \$1.75 at all schools. This letter tells how your children can receive free or reduced-price meals and other benefits from the school such as reduced fees for athletics, and AP classes, clothing from Operation School Bell, eligibility for the college-bound scholarship program or free health insurance. Breakfast will be served to those children who qualify for free and reduced-price meals at no cost. Lunches served to children who qualify for reduced-price meals in kindergarten through 3rd grade will be made available at no cost. All other students who qualify for reduced-price meals (preschool and 4th-12th grades) may buy lunch for \$.40. **If you were approved for benefits during the 2008-2009 school year, they will expire on October 14, 2009. A new application is required to continue free or reduced-price benefits (unless you receive Basic Food or TANF for your children).**

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for free or reduced-price meals for your child(ren), complete the attached Household Meal Benefit Application Form, sign it, and return it to any of the Granite Falls schools, fax it to 360-691-4459 or mail it to Food Service, GFSD, 307 North Alder Avenue, WA 98252. The application cannot be approved unless Sections 1-5 are completed.

BASIC FOOD, TANF AND FDPIR HOUSEHOLDS: If you now receive Basic Food, TANF, or FDPIR benefits for your child(ren), list each child's name, and their Basic Food, TANF, or FDPIR case number. **AN ADULT HOUSEHOLD MEMBER MUST SIGN THE APPLICATION.**

HOUSEHOLDS NOT GETTING BASIC FOOD/TANF/FDPIR: You must enter:

- Names of all the school-age children in your household and the school(s) they attend.
- Names of all household members. **HOUSEHOLD IS:** All persons, including parents, children, grandparents, and all people related, or unrelated, who live in your home and share living expenses. Do not include foster children.
- Income by source for all household members. **HOUSEHOLD INCOME IS:** The income each household member got before taxes. This includes wages, social security, pension, unemployment, welfare, child support, alimony, and any other cash income.
- Social security number of the adult household member who signs the application, (or check the "I do not have a social security number" box if the adult signing does not have a social security number).
- Adult household member's signature.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES for July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010					
Household Size	Weekly	Every Two Weeks	Twice Per Month	Monthly	Annually
1	\$ 386	\$ 771	\$ 835	\$ 1670	\$20036
2	519	1037	1124	2247	26955
3	652	1303	1412	2823	33874
4	785	1569	1700	3400	40793
5	918	1836	1988	3976	47712
6	1051	2102	2277	4553	54631
7	1184	2368	2565	5130	61550
8	1317	2634	2853	5706	68469
	For each additional household member add:				
	+134	+267	+289	+577	+6919

FOSTER CHILDREN: Use **ONE** application per foster child. In certain cases, foster children are eligible for free and reduced-price meals regardless of your income. Write the name of the foster child and the specific school the child attends. If the foster child receives "personal use income," list the amount of income. **The foster parent must sign the application.**

FREE OR LOW-COST HEALTH INSURANCE

If you would like free or low-cost health insurance for your children, call Apple Health for Kids today to request an application: toll free 1-877-543-7669. The health coverage may include doctor visits, prescriptions, hospital, dental care, eyeglasses and more. You may also find information or print an application at their website: <http://hrsa.dshs.wa.gov/applehealth/index.shtml>. Call or log-on today to receive more information.

The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) will download the names of all children age birth to 20 into the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) Core Student Record Database. Information will include the child's first name, last name, middle initial, and date of birth. Upon receipt of this information, OSPI will match student names against the DSHS file and then make the "match" data available to each district via the Internet. Students will automatically qualify for free meals if their schools participate in the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Programs. Households that do not want their child(ren) to participate in the free meal program should notify the child(ren)'s school.

PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY

The information you provide may be verified at any time. You may be asked to send additional information to prove your child is eligible to receive free and reduced-price meals.

FAIR HEARING

If you do not agree with the decision on your child's application or the process used to prove income eligibility, you may talk with Karen Koschak, the fair hearing official. You have the right to a fair hearing which may be arranged by calling the school district at 360-691-7717.

REAPPLICATION

You may apply for benefits any time during the school year. If you should have a decrease in household income, an increase in household size, or become unemployed, or receive Basic Food, TANF, or FDPIR, you may be eligible for benefits and may fill out an application at that time.

NONDISCRIMINATION

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3275 or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.