

GUIDELINES EFFECTIVE FROM JULY 1, 2018 – JUNE 30, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Belgrade Public Schools offer healthy meals ~ breakfast and lunch ~ every school day!

Breakfast Costs: K-8 \$1.75 9-12 \$2.00 Adult \$2.25

Lunch costs: K-4 \$2.50 5-8 \$2.75 9-12 \$3.00 Adult \$4.00

Milk \$.50 (included in meal price). Reduced priced meals all ages: 40¢ for lunch, 30¢ for breakfast

These prices are subject to change.

Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from **SNAP, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** are eligible for free meals.
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- Children may receive free or reduced price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 2018-19			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	22,459	1,872	432
2	30,451	2,538	586
3	38,443	3,204	740
4	46,435	3,870	893
5	54,427	4,536	1,047
6	62,419	5,202	1,201
7	70,411	5,868	1,355
8	78,403	6,534	1,508
Each additional person:	7,992	666	154

2. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY? Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven't been told your children will get free meals, please contact Rachel at **406-924-2011** or email **randrews@bsd44.org**.
3. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? **No.** Use one Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application for all students in your household if all children attend Belgrade Public Schools. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to one of your children's school or the Administration Office located at 312 N. Weaver or mail to PO Box 166, Belgrade, MT 59714.



If you recently received a NOTICE OF DIRECT CERTIFICATION for free meals from Belgrade Schools, **DO NOT** complete the application. If any children in your household *are not* listed on the **Notice of Direct Certification** letter(s) you received please contact: **Rebecca at 924-2496** or rankney@bsd44.org.

Please note, on-line applications are not available at this time.

4. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? **Yes.** Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year, through **October 10, 2018**. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not send in a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified by the school that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for meals.
5. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please send in a completed application.
6. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
7. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER? Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
8. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION? You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: **Jay Bates, Hearing Official, PO Box 166, Belgrade, MT 59714, 406-924-2031, jbates@bsd44.org.**
9. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced price meals.
10. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
11. HOW DO I DETERMINE SELF-EMPLOYED INCOME? Self-employed persons may use the previous year's income as a basis to project their current year's net income, unless their current income provides a more accurate measure. Self-employed should use their net income rather than gross income.
12. WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT? Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application, or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.
13. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY? Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.
14. WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY? List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper, and attach it to your application.
15. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for **SNAP** or other assistance benefits, call the Montana Public Assistance Helpline at 1-888-706-1535, apply online at www.apply.mt.gov or contact a local assistance office.

If you have other questions or need help, call Rebecca Ankney @ 924-2496.

***Application forms are available at every school office, the Administration office at 312 N. Weaver, and on our web-site: www.bsd44.org. If you would like an application mailed to you please call Rebecca @ 924-2496.**

Sincerely,
Dana Brandt
Food Service Director
Belgrade School District #44
(406)924-2516 dbrandt@bsd44.org