LETTER TO HOUSEHOLDS/FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - SCHOOL YEAR 2025-26

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Kiel Area School District offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$2.25; lunch costs 4k-4 is \$3.25 and 5th-12th is \$3.40. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is \$.30 for breakfast and \$.40 for lunch. This packet includes an application for free or reduced price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. 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 FoodShare, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or W-2 cash benefits are eligible for free meals, when listed on the application.
 - Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
 - Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
 - Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
 - Children may qualify to receive free or reduced price meals if your household income is at or below the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.

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Household size	Yearly (\$)	Monthly (\$)	Weekly (\$)
1	28,953	2,413	557
2	39,128	3,261	753
3	49,303	4,109	949
4	59,478	4,957	1,144
5	69,653	5,805	1,340
6	79,828	6,653	1,536
7	90,003	7,501	1,731
8	100,178	8,349	1,927
ach additional person:	10,175	848	196

- 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 have not been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail Kari Riehl 920-894-2260 extension 5154.
- 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.* We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: **Jennifer Swanson Kiel Area School District, 210 Raider Heights, Kiel, WI 53042**
- 4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS? Please read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. If your letter indicated you qualify for free meals, then no application is needed. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact Jennifer Swanson at 920-894-5183 immediately. If your household was notified it qualified for reduced price meals, we encourage you to complete an application to potentially qualify for free meals based on household size and income.
- 5. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF MY CHILD ATTENDS A COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION (CEP) SCHOOL? If your child attends a school that participates in CEP, receipt of free breakfast and lunch meals does not depend on returning this application. However, this information is necessary for other programs and may be used to determine if your household is eligible for additional benefits.

- 6. 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 10/13/25, or when a new eligibility is determined. You must submit a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not submit a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for meals.
- 7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals, but it is based on income. Please submit an application.
- 8. MY CHILD PARTICIPATES IN BADGERCARE PLUS OR MEDICAID. CAN MY CHILD GET FREE MEALS? Children participating in BadgerCare Plus or Medicaid <u>may</u> be eligible for free or reduced price meals, but it is based on income. Please submit an application.
- 9. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
- 10. 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 or experience a financial hardship may become eligible for free and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
- 11. 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 Dr. Bradley Ebert at 920-894-2266, 416 Paine Street, Kiel, Wi 53042
- 12. 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.
- 13. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you <u>normally</u> 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.
- 14. 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.
- 15. 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. Do not include any combat pay resulting from deployment as income.
- 16. WHAT IF THERE IS NOT 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.
- 17. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for FoodShare or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-800-362-3002.
- 18. IF THIS APPLICATION IS APPROVED WILL MY CHILD RECEIVE SUMMER EBT BENEFITS? Yes. An approved Household Application for Free or Reduced Priced Meals qualifies your household for Summer EBT benefits. More information is available at https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/programs/SummerEBT.

If you have other questions or need help, call 920 - 894-5183.

Sincerely,

2025-26 Household Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals

Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil). In Community Eligibility Provision, Schools (CEP), receipt of free meals does not depend on returning this application; however, this information is necessary for other programs.

List ALL children in the household. Do not forget to list infants, children attending other schools, children not in school, and children not applying for benefits. This includes children not related to you in your household.

Child's Last Name

Z

Child's First Name

STEP 1

List ALL children, infants, and students up to and including grade 12. Attach another sheet of paper if you need space for more names.

APPLY ONLINE: N/A
RETURN TO (School/District Name): Kiel

IS RETURN TO (School/District Name): Kiel Area School District ADDRESS: 210 Raider Heights, Kiel, WI 53042

Application Instruction's Step 1: Part C & Part D.

Check all that apply

Write only one case number in this space.

CASE NUMBER (NOT EBT NUMBER);

Badgercare, Medicaid, Summer EBT are not eligible

Do any household members (including you) participate in: FoodShare (SNAP), W-2 Cash Benefits (TANF), or FDPIR?

YES → Write case number here and proceed to STEP 4. PROGRAM NAME:

0

O NO → Go to STEP 3.

STEP 2

STEP 3

List ALL household members and income for each member (before taxes and deductions)

If you checked any of these boxes, please refer to the

Foster Child Migrant

Grade

transcription were refirst and Last) \$ Color Colo		Public Assistance, Child Support,	How often received?	Pensions, Retirement, Social Security, SSI,		How often received?	
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Contact information and adult signature. RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL: "I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this inform (confirm) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may Print Name of Adult Signing the Form Required: Signature of Adult	Child Income	Weekly 2 Week Zekkouth Monthly	Amual				
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A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits **Examples of Income for Children** Social Security/Disability (including railroad Private Pensions or disability benefits retirement and black lung benefits) Income from trusts or estates Regular cash payments from Pensions/Retirement/ All other sources of income Investment income outside household Earned interest Rental income Annuities Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Cash assistance from State or local Sources of Income Public Assistance/Alimony/ Unemployment benefits Child support payments Veterans benefits Workers' compensation Alimony payments Child Support government Salary, wages, cash bonuses, tips, commissions Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA, or privatized housing Allowances for off-base housing, food, Net income from self-employment If you are in the U.S. Military: **Earnings from Work** (farm or business) and clothing

For additional information on income, please refer to the instructions that accompany this application.

SOURCES AND EXAMPLES OF INCOME

dren's ethnic and racial identities. This information is kept confidential and may be protected by the Privacy Act o	ay be protected by the Privacy Act of 1974.	Proposed with management and an arrangement of the second
dren's ethnic and racial identities. This inf	ormation is kept confidential and ma	
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Responding to this section is optional We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.

Not Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity (check one): THispanic or Latino (A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish Culture or origin, regardless of race) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander Black or African American Asian Race (check one or more): American Indian or Alaska Native Return this completed form to your child's school. *Do not mail, fax, or email completed applications to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

For school use only. If all students listed on this application attend CEP schools, the processing of this application cannot be paid for by the nonprofit school food service account. DO NOT FILL OUT

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 Weeks x 26, Twice a Month x 24, Monthly x 12. Do not annualize income to determine eligibility unless more than one income frequency is listed.

Free Reduced Denied

Verifying Official's Signature

Date

Confirming Official's Signature

Date

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Use of Information Statement —

Determining Official's Signature

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires that we use information from this application to see who qualifies for free or reduced price meals. We can only approve complete forms. We may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them deliver program benefits to your household. Inspectors and law enforcement may also use your information to make sure that program rules are met.

Please be sure to provide the last four numbers of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application. If the adult does not have one, 'Check if no Social Security Number' Applications for a foster child do not need to list a Social Security number. Applications for children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) do not need to list a Social Security number. Some children qualify for free meals without an application. Please contact your school to get free meals for a foster child, and children who are homeless, migrant, or runaway.

The contact information below is solely to file a complaint of discrimination

prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTV) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for

discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

*Do not mail applications to this address, only complaints of discrimination.

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

program.intake@usda.gov

FAX: EMAIL: This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



How To Apply for Free and Reduced Price School Meals

application per household, even if your children attend more than one school in the Kiel Area School District. Please use these instructions to help you fill out the application for free and reduced price school meals. You only need to submit one

are not sure what to do next, please contact Jennifer Swanson. Please follow these instructions in order! Each step of the instructions is the same as the steps on your application. If at any time you The application must be filled out completely to determine the eligibility of your child(ren) for free or reduced price school meals

Please use a pen (not a pencil) when filling out the application and do your best to print clearly

Step 1: List ALL children, infants, and students up to and including grade 12

you to be a part of your household Tell us how many infants/toddlers, children not in school, and elementary/middle/high school students live in your household. They do NOT have to be related to

Who should I list here? When filling out this section, please include ALL members in your household who are

- Children age 18 or under AND are supported with the household's income;
- In your care under a formal foster arrangement through a court or state/local agency, or qualify as homeless, migrant, or runaway youth;
- Students attending (regardless of age) Kiel Area school District

of paper (or a second application application, attach a second piece children present than lines on the When printing names, write one of the application for each child. each child's name. Use one line A) List each child's name. Print |B) Is the child a student? short for middle initial. Print the applies to adults in Step 3. "MI" is additional children. This also all required information for the if completing electronically) with out of space. If there are more letter in each box. Stop if you run name in the box. first letter of each child's middle

level of the student in the If "Yes," write the grade

C) Do you have any foster children? If any children listed are foster children, mark the "Foster Child" box next to the child's name. If finishing Step 1, go to Step 4.

who cares for the child in place of their parent custody and placed with a state-licensed adult, minor child who has been taken into state considered foster children. A foster child is a Step 3. Note: Adopted children are not or guardian for both foster and non-foster children, go to listed on your application. If you are applying members of your household and should be Foster children who live with you may count as

"Grade" column to the right. |you are ONLY applying for foster children, after | "Homeless, Migrant, Runaway" box next to the potentially needing to contact you later section meets this description, mark the order to prevent the school district from complete an income-based application. You may student's homeless, migrant, or runaway status, staff. If the school district cannot confirm your child's name and complete all steps of the runaway? If you believe any child listed in this D) Are any children homeless, migrant, or choose to provide income information now in then the school district will contact you to must be confirmed with the appropriate program <u>application</u>. Homeless, Migrant, Runaway <u>status</u>

Step 2: Do any household members currently participate in SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR?

If anyone in your household (including you) currently participates in one or more of the assistance programs listed below, your children are eligible for free school meals:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or FoodShare
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or W-2 Cash Benefits
- The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).

A) If no one in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:

Check "No" in Step 2 and go to Step 3.

B) If anyone in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:

- Write a case number for SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR. You only need to provide one case number. If https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forwardhealth/imagency/index.htm you participate in one of these programs and do not know your case number, contact:
- Go to Step 4.

Step 3: List ALL household members and income for each member

How do I report my income?

- Use the lists titled "Sources of Income" & "Examples of Income for Children," on the back side of the application form to determine if your household has income to report.
- Report all amounts in GROSS INCOME ONLY. Report all income in whole dollars. Do not include cents
- Gross income is the total income received before taxes and deductions.
- o Many people think of income as the amount they "take home" and not the total, "gross" amount. Make sure that the income you report on this application has NOT been reduced to pay for taxes, insurance premiums, or any other amounts taken from your pay.
- Write a "0" in any fields where there is no income to report. Any income fields left empty or blank will also be counted as a zero. If you write "0" or leave any your application will be investigated. fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. If local officials suspect that your household income was reported incorrectly,
- Mark how often each type of income is received using the check boxes to the right of each field

3.A. Report income earned by adults

Who should I list here?

- . When filling out this section, please include ALL adult members in your household who are living with you and share income and expenses, even if they are not related and even if they do not receive income of their own
- Do NOT include:
- o People who live with you but are not supported by your household's income AND do not contribute income to your household.
- o Infants, children and students already listed in Step 1.

Step 3: List ALL household members and income for each member

1) List adult household members' names.

are declared independently on taxes (all college students are considered adults). Do not list any household members you listed in Step 1. Print the name of each household member in the boxes marked "Names of Adult Household Members (First and Last)." Include college students, unless they

List earnings from work.

employed business or farm owner, you will report your net income. Net income is your income after taxes and deductions have been subtracted List all income from work in the "Earnings from Work" field on the application. This is usually the money received from working at jobs. If you are a self-

- paper if necessary. What if I have multiple jobs? List each job separately by entering your name and income from each job on a new line. Add an additional sheet of
- expenses of your business from its gross receipts (revenue). Gross receipts or revenue are all the income earned from the sale of any products or What if I am self-employed? List income from your business as a net amount. This net amount is calculated by subtracting the total operating services offered.

If a child listed in Step 1 has income, follow the instructions in Step 3, Part B.

List income from public assistance/child support/alimony.

should be reported as "other" income in the next part. benefits NOT listed on the chart. If income is received from child support or alimony, only report court-ordered payments. Informal but regular payments List all income that applies in the "Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony" field on the application. Do not report the cash value of any public assistance

4) List income from pensions/retirement/all other income.

List all income that applies in the "Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income" field on the application

source on a new line. Add an additional sheet of paper if necessary. What if I receive income from multiple sources in this category? List each source separately by entering your name and income from each

List total household size.

them. It is very important to list all household members, as the size of your household affects your eligibility for free and reduced price meals household members listed in Step 1 and Step 3. If there are any members of your household that you have not listed on the application, go back and add Enter the total number of household members in the field "Total Household Members (Children and Adults)." This number MUST be equal to the number of

6) Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number.

An adult household member must enter the last four digits of their Social Security Number in the space provided. You are eligible to apply for benefits even if right labeled "Check if no Social Security Number." you do not have a Social Security Number. If no adult household members have a Social Security Number, leave this space blank and mark the box to the

3.B List income earned by children

List all income earned or received by children.

you are applying for them together with the rest of your household List the combined gross income for ALL children listed in Step 1 in your household in the box marked "Child Income." Only count foster children's income if

What is Child Income? Child income is money received from outside your household that is paid DIRECTLY to your children. Many households do not have any child income.

Step 4: Contact information and adult signature

All applications must be signed by an adult member of the household. By signing the application, that household member is promising that all back of the application. information has been truthfully and completely reported. Before completing this section, please also make sure you have read the statements on the

A) Provide your contact information. Write your current mailing address in the fields provided, if this information is available. If you have no permanent address, that is okay. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.

B) Print and sign your name and write today's date. Print the name of the adult signing the application and that person signs in the box "Signature of adult."

C) Mail completed application to:
Jennifer Swanson
Kiel School District
210 Raider Heights
Kiel, WI 53042

Optional

ethnicity. This field is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price school meals. This information is requested solely for the protected by the Privacy Act. By providing this information, you will assist us in assuring that this program is administered in a nondiscriminatory manner. purpose of determining the State's compliance with Federal civil rights laws, and your response will not affect consideration of your application, and may be Share children's racial and ethnic identities (optional). On the back of the application, we ask you to share information about your children's race and

or reduced-price meals will be delayed. questions about applications to the USDA Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights or your child's eligibility for free Please return the application directly to your child's SCHOOL. DO NOT mail, fax, or email completed applications or

KIEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT SHARING INFORMATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS

Dear Parent/Guardian:	Date:
Meals Application may be shared with otl	ion you gave on your Free and Reduced Price School her programs for which your children may qualify. For our permission to share your information. Sending in hildren get free or reduced price meals.
Yes! I DO want school officials to school Meals Application with Zie school programs	share information from my Free and Reduced Price elanis Parent Teacher Partnership (PTP) or other
Yes! I DO want school officials to School Meals Application for St V	share information from my Free and Reduced Price lincent DePaul Association.
Yes! I DO want school officials to School Meals Application with loc pantries	share information from my Free and Reduced Price cal churches, service organizations, and food
No! I DO NOT want school office Price School Meals Application	ial to share information from my Free and Reduced
If you checked yes to any or all of the bo information is shared for the child(ren) lis the programs you checked.	xes above, fill out the form below to ensure that your sted below. Your information will be shared only with
Child's Name:	_School:
Signature of Parent/Guardian:	Date:
Printed Name:	
Address:	

For more information, you may call Jennifer Swanson at (920) 894-5183 or e-mail at jswanson@kiel.k12.wi.us				

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To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

2. fax:

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

3. **email:**

program.intake@usda.gov

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