

## Media Release: Application Free and Reduced-Price School Meals

*Silverton ISD* announced its policy today for providing free and reduced-price meals for children served under the attached current income eligibility guidelines. Each school/site or the central office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by anyone on request.

Starting on *August 1, 2024*, *Silverton ISD* will begin distributing letters to the households of the children in the district *{or service area}* about eligibility benefits and any actions households need to take to apply for these benefits. Applications also are available at *700 Loretta St., Silverton, TX. 79257*.

### Criteria for Free and Reduced-Price Meal Benefits

The following criteria will be used to determine a child's eligibility for free or reduced-price meal benefits:

#### Income

1. Household income that is at or below the income eligibility levels

#### Categorical (Automatic) Eligibility

2. Household receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

#### Program Participant

3. Child's status as a foster child, homeless, runaway, migrant, or displaced by a declared disaster
4. Child's enrollment in Head Start or Even Start

### Income Eligibility

For those households that qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on income, an adult in the household must complete an application for free and reduced-price meals and return it to *Vicki Eddleman, Principal Secretary, (806)823-2476 or vicki.eddleman@silvertonisd.net*. Those individuals filling out the application will need to provide the following information:

1. Names of all household members
2. Amount, frequency, and source of current income for each household member
3. Last 4 digits of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application or, if the adult does not have a social security number, check the box for "No Social Security number"
4. Signature of an adult household member attesting that the information provided is correct

### Categorical or Program Eligibility

*Silverton ISD* is working with local agencies to identify all children who are categorically and program eligible. *Silverton ISD* will notify the households of these children that they do not need to complete an application. Any household that does not receive a letter and feels it should have should contact *Vicki Eddleman, Principal Secretary, (806)823-2476 or vicki.eddleman@silvertonisd.net*.

Any household that wishes to decline benefits should contact *Vicki Eddleman, Principal Secretary, (806)823-2476 or vicki.eddleman@silvertonisd.net*

Applications may be submitted anytime during the school year. The information provided by households on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility. Applications may also be verified by the school officials at any time during the school year.

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 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, audiotope, 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 TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

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> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form.

