

Parents/Guardians: Please print and keep this information handy !

Summer 2009

Questions? Please call 941-575-5400 ext. 109; Toll Free: 1-888-532-4112

Free/Reduced-Price Meal Benefits Information for School Year 2009/2010

To apply for your family's children to have free breakfast and lunch or reduced-price (30¢) breakfast and (40¢) lunch, **please take the following steps:**

1. Watch for a 2009/2010 Meal Benefits Family Application to arrive at your home address through the U.S. Postal Mail during the **first week of July**. (Only 1 application needed for all school children in your household who attend Charlotte County Public Schools.)

- Need to update your address?
 - Please call the Food and Nutrition Services office: 941-575-5400 ext. 179
 - AND notify your child's school of your address change **TODAY!**

2. Listen for a ParentLink phone call in early July to remind you to complete a new Application to help your child(ren) become eligible for free or reduced-price meal benefits.

- Didn't receive an Application in the mail?
You can download one from the district's website: **www.yourcharlotteschools.net**

3. Complete the Application and

Since we receive thousands, send yours in EARLY!

- mail the completed, **signed** Application to:

Champ's Café

School Food and Nutrition Services Dept.

1016 Education Avenue

Punta Gorda, FL 33950

or return the completed, signed application to your child's school

Use child's legal full name (from birth certificate), not their nickname.

4. If your family IS approved for free or reduced-price meals for your child, your notification letter will be mailed to the address you indicated on the application.

5. If your family is not approved for meal benefits, you will be notified. Please apply again:

- when your family's income changes OR the number of people in your household changes

Yes, families may apply for meal benefits more than once during the school year!

IMPORTANT DATES:

July 1: Meal Benefit Applications for 2009/2010 school year are mailed to homes and Application becomes available to download from website:
www.yourcharlotteschools.net

July 2: Completed Applications accepted for processing* for the new school year!

July 14: First Day of School for Year-Round Students: All Year-Round Students receive both Breakfast and Lunch for **FREE** thru 8/7/09 as part of the state's Summer Feeding Program

Aug. 10: First Day of School for Regular Year Students:

First Day for free/reduced-price/full price eligibility for All Students, including Year-Round Students as the Summer Feeding Program concludes

IMPORTANT: *Grace Period in Effect:* Students will begin the new school year with either:

- the free/reduced-price/full price eligibility with which they ENDED the 2008/2009 school year
- or
- their new eligibility, if you have completed and returned your new family Meal Benefits Application!

Sept. 10: Last Day for Grace Period (Students using last year's eligibility)

Sept. 11: Students **without** a new 2009/2010 approved Application **will pay FULL PRICE** for their meal today, **and until** a completed Application is received, processed and approved*

**the district has up to 10 business days to process an application*

Please **send lunch money** for your child **until you receive notice** that they have been approved.

Please note: USDA requires that parents/guardians pay for their student's meals until free or reduced-price status is approved.

9,211 or 53.15% of our district's students were eligible for free or reduced-price meals as of April 2009