Starting this 2023-24 school year, Dolores County School District RE-2J is excited to announce the participation in the Healthy School Meals for All program for Breakfast and Lunch. All students enrolled at Dolores County School District RE-2J may participate in the Breakfast and Lunch programs at no cost!

Studies have shown that students who are not hungry perform better in school. By providing Breakfast and Lunch to all students at no cost, we are hoping to create a better learning environment for our students.

As in previous years, it's important for households to still provide their household income information requested via an application. While meals will be provided at no cost to all students in participating schools, it's important for Dolores County School District RE-2J to continue gathering this information in order to receive full access to state and federal funding. Additional funds will go directly to schools to help cover the cost of meals, support after-school activities and other nutritional programs for students. Plus, households who qualify may receive discounted school fees, class materials, bus passes, utilities support and more.

This packet contains more information and the related application to provide your household income information. Please note that, while the following pages may reference eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals, Breakfast and Lunch will be provided free to all students in the 2023-24 school year regardless of your household income.

The school meals that Dolores County School District RE-2J serves follows U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines for healthy school meals.

For information on where to find an application and how to apply, please read the attached letter. To learn more about the Healthy School Meals for All program visit www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/healthy-school-meals-for-all-program.

Once again, ALL MEALS WILL BE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE and the attached application will not affect that. However, the economic information collected on the free/reduced application is vital in order to maximize additional state and federal funding available to our district. If your child is directly certified based on household participation in an eligible assistance program (such as SNAP, TANF, Medicaid) you will receive a letter from the district stating your child(ren) have been directly certified. If you receive a Direct Certification for Free/Reduced School Meals Eligibility Letter, it is not necessary to complete the Free/Reduced Meals Application.
Information about Applying for Free or Reduced-Price School Meals

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Dolores County School District RE-2J offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast and Lunch will be offered to all students at no cost. Your children may qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. Students in all grades that qualify for free or reduced-price meals will receive breakfast and lunch at no charge.

This packet includes an application for free or reduced-price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. You can also find applications at the district and school offices and on our website dc2j.org

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

1. WHO CAN RECEIVE FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS?
   a. All children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FPDIR), Medicaid or Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF/Colorado Works—Basic Cash Assistance or State Diversion), are eligible for free meals.
   b. Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals. Foster children may be added as a household member of the foster family if the foster family chooses to apply. Including foster children as household members may help other children qualify for benefits. If the foster family is not eligible, it does not prevent a foster child from receiving benefits.
   c. Children who qualify for their district’s Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
   d. Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
   e. Children may receive free or reduced-price meals if your household’s income is within the limits of 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household size</th>
<th>Yearly</th>
<th>Monthly</th>
<th>Weekly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$26,973</td>
<td>$2,248</td>
<td>$519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$36,482</td>
<td>$3,041</td>
<td>$702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$45,991</td>
<td>$3,833</td>
<td>$885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$55,500</td>
<td>$4,625</td>
<td>$1,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$65,009</td>
<td>$5,418</td>
<td>$1,251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$74,518</td>
<td>$6,210</td>
<td>$1,434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>$84,027</td>
<td>$7,003</td>
<td>$1,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>$93,536</td>
<td>$7,795</td>
<td>$1,799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each additional person:</td>
<td>$9,509</td>
<td>$793</td>
<td>$183</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 any of these descriptions and have not already been notified that your children will receive free meals, please call or e-mail Ty Gray, tgray@dc2j.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. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: Roxie Guynes, Dolores County School District RE-2J, PO Box 459, Dove Creek, CO 81324.

4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? No, but please read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household are missing from your eligibility notification, contact Roxie Guynes, rguynes@dc2j.org immediately.
Non-discrimination Statement:
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, 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 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/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-23-17Fax2Mail.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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.
Dolores County School District RE-2J 2023-2024 Household Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals

Complete one application per household. Please use a black or blue pen (not a pencil).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student’s First Name</th>
<th>MI</th>
<th>Student’s Last Name</th>
<th>Birth Date</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>M M D D Y Y</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Foster Child  Head Start  Runaway Homeless Migrant

STEP 2 If any household members (including you) currently receive assistance from any of the following programs: SNAP, TANF or FDPIR list the case number below.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF/Colorado Works – Basic Cash Assistance or State Diversion), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). Provide case number and skip to Step 3.

SNAP Case Number  TANF Case Number  FDPIR Case Number

STEP 3 Report income for ALL household members (skip this step if you provided a case number in STEP 2)

A. Student Income
Please include the TOTAL income, if any, received by all students listed above.

B. All Other Household Members (including yourself)
In the spaces below list all other household members not listed in Step 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. For each household member listed, if they do receive income, report TOTAL GROSS INCOME (BEFORE TAXES AND OTHER DEDUCTIONS) for each source in whole dollars only. If they do not receive income from any source, write ‘0’. If you enter ‘0’ or leave any fields blank, you are certifying that there is no income to report.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names of All OTHER Household Members</th>
<th>Earnings from Work</th>
<th>How Often?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>Bi-Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Household Members
(Students and Adults from Steps 1 and 3)

Last four digits of Social Security Number (SSN) or mark “no SSN” of adult signing this form only if Step 3B has been completed.

XXX-XX-  Check box if no SSN

STEP 4 Contact information and adult signature. Mail signed and completed application to: Dolores County School District RE-2J, PO Box 459, Dove Creek, CO 81324

I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal funds, and that school officials may verify (check) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws.

Mailing Address or PO Box
City  State  Zip Code
Email Address

STEP 5 Release of Information

The information provided on this application will be used in conjunction with state educational programs and may be shared with Medicaid or State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) offices. Please check the box to opt out:

☐ DO NOT share information with Medicaid/SCHIP

Please share my information with the following programs I have checked:

☐ Advanced Placement (AP)  ☐ Accelerate College Opportunity
☐ Exam and/or AP Fees  ☐ Exam and/or Book Fees
☐ Athletic Fees

See back of application
Children’s Racial and Ethnic Identities

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. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children’s eligibility for free or reduced price meals.

Ethnicity (check one): ☐ Hispanic or Latino  ☐ Not Hispanic or Latino
Race (check one or more):  ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native  ☐ Asian  ☐ Black or African American  ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander  ☐ White

You may also qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program! See more information below.

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not submit all needed information, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the primary wage earner or other adult household member who signs the application. The social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

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

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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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

DISTRICT USE ONLY. DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE.

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52; Bi-Weekly x 26; 2 Times per Month x 24; Monthly x 12

Application Type:
☐ Total Household Income: $__________  Household Size:__________
Household Income Frequency:  ☐ Weekly  ☐ Bi-Weekly  ☐ 2x/Month  ☐ Monthly  ☐ Annually

Categorical Eligibility:  ☐ SNAP  ☐ FDPIR  ☐ TANF  ☐ Foster
☐ Homeless/Migrant/Runaway/Head Start

Application Status:
☐ Approved  ☐ Free  ☐ Reduced

Denied:  ☐ Over Income Guidelines  ☐ Incomplete/Missing:__________

Notes:__________

Determining Official Signature:__________  Approval/Denial Date:__________  Notification Sent:__________