

**Media Release**

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**NEWS RELEASE — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, September 2, 2020

**Lexington District One announces free-and-reduced meal program details**

LEXINGTON, S.C. — Lexington County School District One announces its policy for free and reduced-price meals for children served in schools under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program.

Local school officials adopted the following household size and income criteria for determining eligibility:

Household Size and Income Guidelines for Free Meals or Reduced Price Meals Effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

Income Eligibility Guidelines Effective from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021										
Household size	REDUCED PRICE MEALS – 185%					FREE MEALS – 130%				
	Annual	Monthly	Twice per month	Every two weeks	Weekly	Annual	Monthly	Twice per month	Every two weeks	Weekly
1.....	23,606	1,968	984	908	454	16,588	1,383	692	638	319
2.....	31,894	2,658	1,329	1,227	614	22,412	1,868	934	862	431
3.....	40,182	3,349	1,675	1,546	773	28,236	2,353	1,177	1,086	543
4.....	48,470	4,040	2,020	1,865	933	34,060	2,839	1,420	1,310	655
5.....	56,758	4,730	2,365	2,183	1,092	39,884	3,324	1,662	1,534	767
6.....	65,046	5,421	2,711	2,502	1,251	45,708	3,809	1,905	1,758	879
7.....	73,334	6,112	3,056	2,821	1,411	51,532	4,295	2,148	1,982	991
8.....	81,622	6,802	3,401	3,140	1,570	57,356	4,780	2,390	2,206	1,103
For each additional family member, add	8,288	691	346	319	160	5,824	486	243	224	112

Children from families whose income is at or below the levels shown may be eligible for free or reduced price meals.

(MORE)

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For school officials to determine eligibility, the household must provide the following information on the application:

1. a SNAP or TANF case number certifying the household is currently eligible for either of these assistance programs and an adult household member signature or
2. names of all household members, the name and last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member signing the application form, current income by source for each household member and a signature of an adult household member certifying that the information provided is correct.

Foster children may also be eligible for these benefits regardless of household income. If a household has foster children living with them and the household has not previously been notified by the district that their foster children have been directly certified for free meals, the household should include and count the foster children (including personal income earned by the foster children) on the household application form with other non-foster children.

Under the provisions of the policy, Food Service and Nutrition Executive Secretary Tracy Frierson will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the reviewing official may wish to discuss the decision with the reviewer on an informal basis. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal may make a request either orally or in writing to Jeff Salters, Chief Operations Officer, at Lexington County School District One, P.O. Box 1869, Lexington, SC 29071-1869, 803-821-1000 for a hearing to appeal the decision.

The district outlines the hearing procedures in the policy.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if household size changes, the household should contact the school to file a meal application. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for free or reduced price meals — if the household income falls at or below the levels shown above.

Any interested party may review a complete copy of the policy is on file in each school and in the office of Lexington County School District One Superintendent Greg Little.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact the USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. In addition, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination:

- complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (AD-3027) found online at: <https://www.ascr.usda.gov/ad-3027-usda-program-discrimination-complaint-form> 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.

To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992.

Submit your completed form or letter to the USDA by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250; by fax at 202-690-7442; or by email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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