

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Apply on line at schoolcafe.com!

White Settlement ISD offers healthy meals every school day. This school year meals will be available **at no cost to all students**. Typically, a student’s household must meet income eligibility requirements to qualify for free or reduced-price meals. However, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued guidance that allows schools to offer meals to all students **at no cost for the 2021-2022 school year**. **APPLY NOW: you may qualify for additional benefits (PEBT); also, WSISD receives funding for students.**

While no application or eligibility determination is required for your student to receive free meals this school year, income eligibility requirements will likely resume in the 2022-2023 school year. As such, to establish eligibility for free or reduced-price meals for the 2022-2023 school year, please complete an application for free or reduced-price meals this school year. Please note that if you received a notification letter that a child is directly certified for free or reduced-price meals, do not complete an application. Let the Child Nutrition Office know if any children in the household attending school are not listed in the letter.

Go to brewerbearcafe.com for more information.

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 SNAP, FDPIR, or TANF, are eligible for free meals.
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court order are eligible for free meals.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- Children may receive free or reduced price meals if your household's income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

Reduced-Price Meal Income Eligibility Guidelines					
Family Size	Annually	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$23,828	\$1,986	\$993	\$917	\$459
2	\$32,227	\$2,686	\$1,343	\$1,240	\$620
3	\$40,626	\$3,386	\$1,693	\$1,563	\$782
4	\$49,025	\$4,086	\$2,043	\$1,886	\$943
5	\$57,424	\$4,786	\$2,393	\$2,209	\$1,105
6	\$65,823	\$5,486	\$2,743	\$2,532	\$1,266
7	\$74,222	\$6,186	\$3,093	\$2,855	\$1,428
8	\$82,621	\$6,886	\$3,443	\$3,178	\$1,589
For each additional family member add:					
	+ \$8,399	+ \$700	+ \$350	+ \$324	+ \$162

2. How do I know if my child(ren) 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 haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail **Lauren Vines at: lauren.vines@wsisd.net or call 817-367-1200.**

3. Do I need to complete an application for each child? No. Complete 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.

4. Should I complete an application if I received a letter for the 2021-22 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 were missing from your eligibility notification, contact the Child Nutrition Office 817-367-1310 or Kathy Huey at khuey@wsisd.net immediately.

5. How to apply online? Visit brewerbearcafe.com, click on the “Schoolcafe” logo to begin or click on the Free Meals tab to learn more about the online application process. Contact **Yuri Carrasco at ycarrasco@wsisd.net or call 817-367-1310** if you have any questions about the online application.

6. I get WIC. Can my children get free meals? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please complete an application online.

7. Will the information I give be checked? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.

8. 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 may become eligible for free and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.

9. What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application? You should talk to the Child Nutrition Director, Kathy Huey at 817-367-1310. You may also ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Mr. David Bitters, Assist. Superintendent of Finance and Operations, 817-367-1305 ext 5316, 401 S. Cherry Lane, White Settlement, TX 76108.

10. 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.

11. What if my income is not always the same? List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1,000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1,000 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.

12. 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.

13. 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. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.

14. My family needs more help. Are there other programs we might apply for? To find out how to apply for SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call **211** for information.

If you have other questions or need help, call 817-367-1310 or email **Kathy Huey, khuey@wsisd.net**.

Benefits will start once your application is approved by the Child Nutrition Office.

Sincerely,

Kathy Huey, RD MBA
Director of Child Nutrition
White Settlement ISD