
SALT RIVER PIMA MARICOPA

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are pleased to inform you that all children attending Salt River Schools will receive meals at no charge during school year 2014-2015 unless otherwise notified. Providing meals to children is a growing challenge and requires our taking advantage of all available funding resources. One of these resources is the reimbursement program for free and reduced-price meal benefits from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). So that we can keep our costs low and provide excellent food service for children, we need some information for USDA reimbursement purposes. Your cooperation is appreciated. Please answer all questions on the income application form. An income application which does not contain the requested information cannot be processed by the school.

1. **DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD?** No. Complete the application to apply for free or reduced price meals. *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: E.C.E.C., SRES or SRHS kitchens or ALA School Office.
2. **WHO CAN GET FREE MEALS?** All children in households receiving benefits from **SNAP, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)** or **TANF** and most foster children can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household's gross income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines.



If you have received a NOTICE OF DIRECT CERTIFICATION for free meals, do not complete the application. But do let the school know if any children in your household are not listed on the Notice of Direct Certification letter you received.

3. **CAN FOSTER CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?** Yes, foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are eligible for free meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for free meals regardless of income.
4. **CAN HOMELESS, RUNAWAY, HEAD START AND MIGRANT CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?** If you haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail Naomi Manuel, Food Service Clerk at 480-362-2084 to see if they qualify.
5. **WHO CAN GET REDUCED PRICE MEALS?** Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits.
6. **SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS?** Please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school at 480-362-2084 if you have questions.
7. **MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT ANOTHER ONE?** Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
8. **I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILD(REN) GET FREE MEALS?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please fill out an application.
9. **WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?** Yes and we may also ask you to send written proof.
10. **IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER?** Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year.
11. **WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION?** You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: JONI ANDREAS, 480-362-2449, SRPMIC-ED. DEPT., FOOD SERVICE, 100,005 E. OSBORN RD. SCOTTSDALE AZ 8556, ATT. TO JONI ANDREAS.
12. **MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN?** Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be U.S. citizens to qualify for free or reduced price meals.

13. **WHO SHOULD I INCLUDE AS MEMBERS OF MY HOUSEHOLD?** You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends). You must include yourself and all children living with you.
14. **WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME?** List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes.
15. **WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE INCLUDE OUR HOUSING ALLOWANCE AS INCOME?** If you get an off-base housing allowance, it must be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income.
16. **MY SPOUSE IS DEPLOYED TO A COMBAT ZONE. IS THEIR COMBAT PAY COUNTED AS INCOME?** No, if the combat pay is received in addition to their basic pay because of their deployment and it wasn't received before they were deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.
17. **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 1-877-717-4199.

If you have other questions or need help, call 480-362-2084.

Sincerely,

Salt River School Food Service

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING

A household member is any child or adult living with you.

Part 1:

If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, Head Start or a runaway check the appropriate box and call **Naomi Manuel at 480-362-2084**. Complete Box A and Box B in Part 2 and then skip to Part 3.

Part 2:

- **Box A**–List all household members.
- **Box B** – List the name of the school attended by each child or mark N/A for household members not attending school.
- **Box C** – List the case number for any household member (including adults) receiving SNAP or TANF Cash Assistance or FDPIR benefits. Skip to Part 3.
- **Box D** – Check the box in this section for all children in the household who are foster children (legal responsibility of welfare agency or court). Skip to Part 3.
- **Box E** – For ANY household member, including children, with NO INCOME, you MUST check the “No Income” box.
- **Box F –Gross Income and How Often It Was Received:** For each household member, list each type of income received. Report how often the money is received—weekly, every other week, twice a month, monthly or yearly—by filling in the circle under the frequency amounts. **For earnings, be sure to list the gross income, not the take-home pay. Gross income is the amount earned before taxes and other deductions.** You should be able to find it on your pay stub or your employer can tell you. For other income, list the amount each person received from welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran’s benefits (VA benefits), disability benefits, Worker’s Compensation, unemployment or strike benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, and any other income. Do not include income from SNAP, FDPIR, WIC, Federal education benefits and foster payments received by the family from the placing agency.

For ONLY the self-employed, under *Earnings from Work*, report income after expenses. This is for your business, farm, or rental property. If you are in the Military Privatized Housing Initiative or get combat pay, do not include these allowances as income.

- **Box G – Social Security Number:** Adult household member must list the last four digits of their Social Security Number or mark the box if she/he does not have one.

Part 3:

Adult household member must sign the form unless Part 1 is completed.

Part 4:

Completing this section is optional.