

## PUBLIC RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
Mrs. Sharon Reed at (912) 437-8800

The **McIntosh County School Nutrition Program** announces its policy for free and reduced-price meals for children unable to pay the full price served in schools under the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program. Local school officials have adopted the following family size and income criteria for determining eligibility.

FAMILY SIZE	COLUMN I FREE MEALS If Family Income is Within	COLUMN II REDUCED-PRICE MEALS If Family Income is Within
1	0 to 15,301	15,302 to 21,775
2	0 to 20,709	20,710 to 29,471
3	0 to 26,117	26,118 to 37,167
4	0 to 31,525	31,526 to 44,863
5	0 to 36,933	36,934 to 52,559
6	0 to 42,341	42,342 to 60,255
7	0 to 47,749	47,750 to 67,951
8	0 to 53,157	53,158 to 75,647

FOR EACH ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBER, ADD \$5,408 PER YEAR TO THE INCOME LEVEL FOR FREE MEALS AND \$7,696 TO THE INCOME LEVEL FOR REDUCED PRICE MEALS.

All students in grades **Pk-12** will receive Breakfast at no cost. McIntosh County participates in the **Community Eligibility Provision Program**; therefore, all students in grades PK-8<sup>th</sup> will receive lunch at no cost, without having to fill out an application. Students at McIntosh County Academy will need to apply for free or reduced-priced meals by filling out the lunch application and returning it to the school. The price for **Reduced Lunch is \$.40 and a Paid Lunch is \$1.50.**

Application forms including a letter to parents or guardians will be sent to all homes of students attending McIntosh County Academy. To apply for free or reduced-price meals, households should fill out the application and return it to the school. Children from families whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Foster children may also be eligible for these meals. Families with foster children should contact the school for information regarding benefits. Additional forms are available at the principal's office in each school. The information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and may be verified at any time with each school district required to verify a sample annually. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year.

For school officials to determine eligibility, households receiving SNAP or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) must list the child's name, their SNAP or TANF case number and the signature and name of an adult household member. Households not receiving SNAP or TANF must list: child's name, names of all household members, the last four digits of the social security number of the parent or guardian who signs the application (or an indication that neither possesses a social security number), the amount of monthly income received by each household member, identified by source, and the signature of an adult household member certifying that the information provided is correct. The information provided by the household is confidential and will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and verifying data. We may inform officials connected with other child nutrition, health, and education programs of the information on your form to determine benefits for those programs or for funding and/or evaluation purposes.

If a household member becomes unemployed, or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the levels shown above.

Under the provisions of this policy, a school official will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with the determination, he/she may contact the Hearing Officer either orally or in writing:

Dr. Diane J. Richardson, 200 Pine Street, Darien, Georgia 31305, at (912) 437-6645 or email: [djr@mcintosh.k12.ga.us](mailto:djr@mcintosh.k12.ga.us).

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, 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 adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of 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.

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