



Free and Reduced Price School Meals – Information Letter to Households

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Durango School District 9R** offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs **Elementary \$1.25, Middle School \$1.50, High School \$2.00** and lunch costs **Elementary \$2.75, Middle School \$3.00, High School \$3.25**. **Your children may qualify for free or reduced price school meals.** Students in all grades that qualify for reduced price meals will receive breakfast at no charge. Students in preschool through 5th grade who qualify for reduced meals will also receive lunch at no charge. Reduced price lunch is \$.40 for students grades 6-12.

This packet includes an application for free or reduced price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. You can also find applications durangoschools.org or at any school site.

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

1. WHO CAN GET 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 (FDPIR) 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 districts 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 on 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.

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 2017 – 2018			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$22,311	\$1,860	\$430
2	\$30,044	\$2,504	\$578
3	\$37,777	\$3,149	\$727
4	\$45,510	\$3,793	\$876
5	\$53,243	\$4,437	\$1,024
6	\$60,976	\$5,082	\$1,173
7	\$68,709	\$5,726	\$1,322
8	\$76,442	\$6,371	\$1,471
Each additional person:	\$7,733	\$645	\$149

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 these descriptions and have not already been notified that your children will receive free meals, please call or e-mail **Jackie Oros, 201 E. 12th Street, Durango CO 81301, 970-247-5411** jjoros@durango.k12.co.us.
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: **Food Services, 2390 Main Avenue, Durango CO 81301, foodservice@durango.k12.co.us**

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 : **Food Services, 2390 Main Avenue, Durango CO 81301, foodservice@durango.k12.co.us, 970-259-1630 ext 2042** immediately.
5. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? Yes! You are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application if you are able. The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit durangoschools.org to print an application. **Online applications are not available at this time.**
6. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? Yes. Your child's application is only valid for that school year and for the first 30 days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless the school notified you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
7. I RECEIVE WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN RECEIVE FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please send in a completed free and reduced price school meal application.
8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? You may be selected to provide written proof of the household income you report on the application.
9. 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.
10. 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: **Andrew Burns, 201 E. 12th Street, Durango CO 81301, 970-247-5411, aburns@durango.k12.co.us.**
11. 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.
12. 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. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income. The last four digits of the Social Security Number of an adult household member (or an indication of "none") is required to process a complete income application.
13. 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. The last four digits of the Social Security Number of an adult household member (or an indication of "none") is required to process a complete income application.
14. 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, or receive Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance payments, 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.
15. WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY? List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper, and attach it to your application. Contact : **Food Services, 2390 Main Avenue, Durango CO 81301, foodservice@durango.k12.co.us, 970-259-1630 ext 2042** to receive a second application.

16. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office. Colorado PEAK is an online service to screen and apply for medical, food and cash assistance programs. It can be accessed at <http://coloradopeak.force.com/>.

If you have other questions or need help, contact **Food Services, 2390 Main Avenue, Durango CO 81301**, foodservice@durango.k12.co.us, 970-259-1630 ext 2042

Sincerely,



KRISTA GARAND
COORDINATOR STUDENT NUTRITION
DURANGO SCHOOL DISTRICT 9-R

Non-discrimination Statement:

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.

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 USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, 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: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, 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 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;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Durango School District 9-R 2017-2018 Household Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals

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

STEP 1 List all student's attending Durango School District 9-R (if more spaces are required for additional names, attach another sheet of paper)

Student's First Name	MI	Student's Last Name	No Income	Birth Date					Grade	Foster Child	Head Start	Runaway	Homeless	Migrant
				M	M	D	D	Y						

Check all that apply. Read **How to Apply for Free and Reduced Price School Meals** for more information.

STEP 2 If household members (including you) currently participate in one of the following assistance programs: SNAP, TANF, or FDIPIR 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 4.**

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)
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 (BEFORE TAXES AND OTHER DEDUCTIONS)** for each source in whole dollars (no cents) 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.

Names of Other Household Members (First and Last)	Earnings from Work	How Often?					Public Assistance/ Child Support/Alimony	How Often?					Pensions/Retirement/ All Other Income	How Often?										
		Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly	Annually		Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly	Annually		Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly	Annually						
	\$						\$						\$						\$					
	\$						\$						\$						\$					
	\$						\$						\$						\$					
	\$						\$						\$						\$					

Total Household Members (Students' and Adults) Last four digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of adult signing this form or mark 'NO SSN' **ONLY if Step 3B has been completed.** **XXX-XX** **Check if no SSN**

STEP 4 Contact information and adult signature. Mail signed and completed application to: Food Services, 2390 Main Avenue, Durango, CO 81301

"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			Apt. # or Lot #			City			CO	Zip Code			Email Address		
Phone			SIGNATURE of Adult Household Member			Printed First and Last Name of Signer			Today's Date						

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 to seek enrollment of children into the above programs. Also, if your students are eligible to receive free or reduced price meals this information may be shared with the school/district for the purpose of waiving certain school/district program fees that your child(ren) might otherwise be required to pay. The school/district is not permitted to share your information with anyone else. You are not required to consent to the release of your information; this will not affect your student(s)' eligibility for school meals. **Your information WILL be shared unless you check one of the boxes below.**

Do NOT share my information with any programs
 Do NOT share my information with the programs I have checked:
 Medicaid/SCHIP
 Durango 9-R Student Fees
 Durango Parks & Recreation Activities
 City of Durango Multi Modal Division for transit passes

OPTIONAL 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 White

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

NEED HELP BUYING GROCERIES?

- Receive one-on-one assistance with applying for **food stamps**
- Referrals to **food pantries** and free meals
- Get information on child and senior **nutrition programs**

Food Resource Hotline

CALL US TODAY! STATEWIDE, TOLL-FREE **855-855-4626**
METRO DENVER 720-382-2920

¿NO LE ALCANZA EL DINERO PARA COMPRAR COMIDA?

- Reciba ayuda personalizada para solicitar las **estampillas de comida**
- Derivaciones a **bancos de comida** y comidas gratis
- Obtenga información sobre **programas de nutrición** para niños y ancianos

Línea Directa de Recursos de Comidas

¡LLÁMENOS HOY! LÍNEA ESTATAL **855-855-4626**
METRO DENVER 720-382-2920

HUNGER FREE COLORADO **HungerFreeColorado.org**



Colorado PEAK is an online service for Coloradans to screen and apply for medical, food and cash assistance programs.

Visit coloradopeak.force.com to learn more.

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.

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: