

## **FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEAL APPLICATIONS**

Free and reduced-meal price applications will be sent home with students in their first day packets or you can print one from the link in the resources tab; only originals will be accepted at this time, no scanned or faxed applications please.

Also applications are available at the school or cafeteria, if you have questions concerning applications; please contact Roxanne Ruiz at 210-368-8745.

All returning applicants for Free and Reduced-price meals must submit a new application for 2015-2016 school year by September 28<sup>th</sup> as it may take up to 10 days to process the application and avoid returning to a “paid status” on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

Students become eligible for free or reduced-price meals when the application - has been processed. Meal benefits are not retroactive.

Please submit only one application per household.

## **EXCLUSION OF MILITARY COMBAT PAY**

A recent policy memorandum from USDA provides information on implementation of the exclusion of military combat pay from income eligibility determinations for free and

reduced-price meals in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs.

As set forth in the statute, combat pay is defined as an additional payment made under

Chapter 5 of Title 37 of the United States Code, which is received by household

member who is deployed to a designated combat zone.

Combat pay is excluded if it is:

- Received in addition to the service member's basic pay,
- Received as a result of the service member's deployment to or service in an area that has been designated as combat zone
- Not received by the service member prior to his/her deployment to or service in the designated combat zone.

A combat zone is any area that the President of the United States designates by Executive Order as an area in which the U.S. Armed Forces are engaging or have engaged in combat. As with other types of income commonly received by military personnel (such as the Basic Allowance for Housing or Basic Allowance for Subsistence payments), combat pay received by the service members is normally reflected in the entitlements column of the military Leave and Earning Statement (LES). Deployment service members are considered members of the household for purposes of determining income eligibility for the Child Nutrition Programs.

**NOTE: If your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. All other allowances must be added in your gross income.**