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## HOW TO APPLY FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Please use these instructions to help you fill out the online application for free or reduced price school meals. You only need to submit one application per household, even if your children attend more than one school in **La Academia de Estrellas**. The application must be filled out completely at [www.schoolmealapp.com](http://www.schoolmealapp.com), to certify your children for free or reduced price school meals.

Please follow these instructions in order! Each step of the instructions is the same as the steps on your application. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please contact **La Academia de Estrellas, Noheli Breceda at 214-946-8908 or [noheli.breceda@laetx.org](mailto:noheli.breceda@laetx.org)**

**PLEASE USE A PEN (NOT A PENCIL) WHEN FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION AND DO YOUR BEST TO PRINT CLEARLY.**

### STEP 1: LIST ALL CHILDREN IN SCHOOL IN THE HOUSEHOLD.

Tell us how many children in school live in your household. They do NOT have to be related to you to be a part of your household. If there are more children present than lines on the application, attach a second piece of paper with all required information for the additional children.

### STEP 2: DO ANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS (INCLUDING YOU) CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS: SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM (SNAP), TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF), OR FDIPIR?

- A) **IF NO ONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATES IN ANY OF THE ABOVE LISTED PROGRAMS: Circle 'NO' and proceed to STEP 3 on these instructions and STEP 3 on your application.**
- B) **IF ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATES IN ANY OF THE ABOVE LISTED PROGRAMS: Circle 'YES' and provide the case number.** You only need to write **one** case number. If you participate in one of these programs and do not know your case number, contact **211**. You **must** provide a case number on your application if you circled "YES". **Skip to STEP 4.**

### STEP 3: REPORT INCOME FOR ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS.

- A) **LIST EACH HOUSEHOLD MEMBER (including yourself and students listed in Part 1)** even if they do not receive income.
- B) **REPORT TOTAL INCOME** for each household member listed. Report total income and how often it is received from Work, Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony, and Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income. Report all income in whole dollars. Do not include cents. If they do not receive income from any source, write "0". If you write "0" or leave any income fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report.
  - ⓘ **What if I am self-employed?** If you are self-employed, report income from that work as a net amount. This is calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of your business from its gross receipts or revenue.
- C) **REPORT TOTAL HOUSEHOLD SIZE.** Enter the total number of household members in the field "Total Household Size (Children and Adults)." This number **MUST** be equal to the number of household members listed in STEP 3. If there are any members of your household that you have not listed on the application, go back and add them. It is very important to list all household members, as the size of your household determines your income cutoff for free and reduced price meals.
- D) **PROVIDE THE LAST FOUR DIGITS OF YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER.** The household's primary wage earner or another adult household member must provide the last four digits of his/her Social Security Number in the space provided. You are eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social Security Number. If no adult household members have a Social Security Number, leave this space blank and mark the box to the right labeled "Check if no SSN."

### STEP 4: CONTACT INFORMATION AND ADULT SIGNATURE

**All applications must be signed by an adult member of the household.** By signing the application, that household member is promising that all information has been truthfully and completely reported. **Before completing this section, please also make sure you have read the privacy and civil rights statements at the bottom of these instructions.**

- A) **PROVIDE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION.** Write your current address in the fields provided if this information is available. If you have no permanent address, this does not make your children ineligible for free or reduced price school meals. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.
- B) **SIGN AND PRINT YOUR NAME.** Print your name in the box "Printed name of adult completing the form." And sign your name in the box "Signature of adult completing the form."
- C) **WRITE TODAY'S DATE.** In the space provided, write today's date in the box.
- D) **SHARE CHILDREN'S RACIAL AND ETHNIC IDENTITIES (OPTIONAL).** At the bottom of the application, we ask you to share information about your children's race and ethnicity. This field is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price school meals.

**Privacy Act Statement: This explains how we will use the information you give 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.

**Non-discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.**

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