FREQUENTLYASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Bowlegs Public School offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.00; lunch costs \$2.55. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals. Reduced-price is .30 for breakfast and .40 for lunch. This packet includes an application for free or reduced-price meal benefits and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP]), (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations [FDPIR], or (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [TANF]) are eligible for free meals.
- Foster children who are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- 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				
Household Size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly	
1	21,978	1,832	423	
2	29,637	2,470	570	
3	37,296	3,108	718	
4	44,955	3,747	865	
5	52,614	4,385	1,012	
6	60,273	5,023	1,160	
7	67,951	5,663	1,307	
8	75,647	6,304	1,455	
Each additional person:	7,696	642	148	

- 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 been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail (school, homeless liaison, or migrant coordinator).
- 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: (Gloria Stanberry, P.O. Box 88, Bowlegs, OK 74854, (405)398-4321)
- 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 got carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact (Gloria Stanberry, (405) 398-4655, gstanberry@bowlegs.k12.ok.us) 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 (bowleg@k12.ok.us) to begin or to learn more about the online application process. Contact (Gloria Stanberry, P.O. Box 88, Bowlegs, OK 74830, (405)398-4321, bowlegs.k12.ok.us) if you have any questions about the online application.
- 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 good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year, through September 2016. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not send in a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for meals.
- 7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC MAY be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please send in an application.
- 8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
- 9. IF I DO NOT 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: (Tommy Eaton, P.O. Box 88, Bowlegs, OK 74830, (405)398-4321 ext. 101, teaton@bowlegs.k12.ok.us).
- 11. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A UNITED STATES (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.
- 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 θ 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.
- 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, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing 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 IS NOT 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 (Gloria Stanberry, P.O. Box 88, Bowlegs, OK 74830, (405)398-4321, gstanberry@bowlegs.k12.ok.us) 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 (SNAP) or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-866-411-1877.

If you have other questions or need help, call (405) 398-4321.

Sincerely,

(Signature)

HOW TO APPLY FOR FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Please use these instructions to help you fill out the 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 (School District). The application must be filled out completely 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 (Gloria Stanberry, P.O. Box 88, Bowlegs, OK 74830, (405)398-4321, bowlegs.k12.ok.us).

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

STEP 1: LIST ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS WHO ARE INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND STUDENTS UP TO AND INCLUDING GRADE 12

Tell us how many infants, children, and school students live in your household. They do **NOT** have to be related to you to be a part of your household.

Who should I list here?

When filling out this section, please include ALL members in your household who are:

- Children aged 18 or under AND are supported with the household's income.
- In your care under a foster arrangement or qualify as homeless, migrant, or runaway youth.
- Students attending (Bowlegs Public Schools), regardless of age.
- A. List each child's name. For each child, print his/her first name, middle initial, and last name. Use one line of the application for each child. 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.
- B. Is the child a student at (Name of School/School System Here)? Mark Yes or No under the column titled Student to tell us which children attend (Bowlegs Public Schools).
- C. Do you have any foster children? If any children listed are foster children, mark the Foster Child box next to the child's name. If you are ONLY applying for foster children, after completing STEP 1, skip to STEP 4 of the application and these instructions. If you are applying for both foster and non-foster children, go to Step 3. Foster children who live with you may count as members of your household and should be listed on your application.
- D. Are any children homeless, migrant, or runaway? If you believe any child listed in this section may meet this description, please mark the Homeless, Migrant, Runaway box next to the child's name and complete all steps of the application.

STEP 2: DO ANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS (INCLUDING YOU) CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS: SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP), TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF), OR FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS (FDPIR)? If Yes record the proper case number (only one per household) in the box. Skip to STEP 4.

If anyone in your household participates in the assistance programs, your children are *ELIGIBLE* for free school meals.

If NO ONE in your household participates in any of the above programs:

- Skip to STEP 3 on these instructions and STEP 3 on your application.
- Leave STEP 2 blank.

STEP 3: REPORT INCOME FOR ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

How do I report my income?

- Use the charts titled Sources of Income for Adults and Sources of Income for Children printed on the back side of the application form to determine if your household has income to report.
- Report all amounts in GROSS INCOME ONLY. Report all income in whole dollars. Do not include cents.
 - Gross income is the total income received before taxes.
 - Many people think of income as the amount they take home and not the total gross amount. Make sure that the income you report on this application has NOT been reduced to pay for taxes, insurance premiums, or any other amounts taken from your pay.
- Write an θ in any fields where there is no income to report. Any income fields left empty or blank will also be counted as a zero. If you write θ or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. If local officials suspect that your household income was reported incorrectly, your application will be investigated.
- Mark how often each type of income is received using the check boxes to the right of each field.
- A. Report all income earned or received by children. Refer to the chart titled Sources of Income for Children in these instructions, and report the combined gross income for ALL children listed in STEP 1 in your household in the box marked Total Child Income. Only count foster children's income if you are applying for them together with the rest of your household.

What is Child Income?

Child income is money received from outside your household that is paid *DIRECTLY* to your children. Many households do not have any child income. Use the chart below to determine if your household has child income to report.

Sources of Income for Children				
Sources of Child Income	Example(s)			
Earnings from work	A child has a regular full- or part-time job where he! she earns a salary or wages			
 Social Security —Disability payments —Survivor's benefits 	 A child is blind or disabled and receives social security benefits A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and his! her child receives social security benefits 			
• Income from persons <i>OUTSIDE</i> the household	A friend or extended family member REGULARLY gives a child spending money			
Income from any other source	A child receives income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust			

FOR EACH ADULT HOUSEHOLD MEMBER:

Who should I list here?

When filling out this section, please include ALL ADULT members in your household who are:

 Living with you and share income and expenses, even if not related and even if they do not receive income of their own.

Do *NOT* include people who:

- Live with you but are not supported by your household's income AND do not contribute income to your household.
- Infants and children and students already listed in STEP 1.

How do I fill in the income amount and source?

FOR EACH TYPE OF INCOME:

- Use the charts in this section to determine if your household has income to report.
- Report all amounts in gross income *ONLY*. Report all income in whole dollars. Do not include cents.
 - Gross income is the total income received before taxes or deductions.
 - Many people think of income as the amount they *take home* and not the total *gross* amount. Make sure that the income you report on this application has *NOT* been reduced to pay for taxes, insurance premiums, or any other amounts taken from your pay.

FOR EACH ADULT HOUSEHOLD MEMBER: cont

- Write a θ in any fields where there is no income to report. Any income fields left empty or blank will be counted as zeroes. If you write θ or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. If local officials have known or available information that your household income was reported incorrectly, your application will be verified for cause.
- Mark how often each type of income is received using the check boxes to the right of each field.
- B. List adult household members' names. Print the name of each household member in the boxes marked Names of Adult Household Members (First and Last). Do not list any household members you listed in STEP 1. If a child listed in STEP 1 has income, follow the instructions in STEP 3, Part A.
- C. Report earnings from work. Refer to the chart titled Sources of Income for Adults in these instructions, and report all income from work in the Earnings From Work field on the application. This is usually the money received from working at jobs. If you are a self-employed business or farm owner, you will report your net income. This is calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of your business from its gross receipts or revenues.
- D. Report income from public assistance/child support/alimony. Refer to the chart titled Sources of Income for Adults in these instructions, and report all income that applies in the Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony field on the application. Do not report the value of any cash value public assistance benefits NOT listed on the chart. If income is received from child support or alimony, only court-ordered payments should be reported here. Informal regular payments should be reported as Other income in the next part.
- E. Report income from pensions/retirement/all other income. Refer to the chart titled Sources of Income for Adults in these instructions, and report all income that applies in the Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income field on the application.
- F. Report total household size. Enter the total number of household members in the field Total Household Members (Children and Adults). This number MUST be equal to the number of household members listed in STEP 1 and 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 affects your eligibility for free and reduced-price meals.
- G. Provide the last four digits of your social security number. The household's primary wage earner or another adult household member must enter 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 member has a social security number, leave this space blank and mark the box to the right labeled Check if no SSN.

Sources of Income for Adults				
Earnings From Work	Public Assistance/Alimony/Child Support	Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income		
 Salarv. wages, cash bonuses NET income from self- employment (farm or business) 	Unemployment benefitsWorker's compensationSupplemental Security Income	Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits)		
If you are in the U.S. Military:	(S SI)	Private pensions or disability		
Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay,	Cash assistance from state or	benefits		
FSSA, or privatized housing	local governmentAlimony payments	Regular income from trusts or estates		
allowances)	Child support payments	Annuities		
Allowances for off-base	Veteran's benefits	Investment income		
housing, food, and clothing	Strike benefits	Earned interest		
		Rental income		
		• REGULAR cash payments from		
Ok1	6	outside household E		

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 on the application.

- 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, e-mail address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.
- **B.** Print and sign your name. Print your name in the box Printed Name of Adult Completing the Form. Sign your name in the box Signature of Adult Completing the Form.
- C. Today's date. In the space provided, write today's date.
- D. Share children's racial and ethnic identities (optional). On the back 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.

SHARING INFORMATION WITH MEDICAID/SOONERCARE

Dear Parent/Guardian:

If your children get free or reduced-price school meals, they *MAY* also be able to get free or low-cost health insurance through Medicaid or SoonerCare. Children with health insurance are more likely to get regular health care and are less likely to miss school because of sickness.

Because health insurance is so important to children's well-being, the law allows us to tell Medicaid and SoonerCare that your children are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals unless you tell us not to. Medicaid and SoonerCare only use the information to identify children who may be eligible for their programs. Program officials may contact you to offer to enroll your children. Filling out the Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals does not automatically enroll your children in health insurance.

If you do not want us to share your information wit send in. (Sending in this form will not change wheels.)	h Medicaid or SoonerCare, fill out the form below and nether your children get free or reduced-price school
_	my Application for Free and Reduced-Price School
If you checked <i>No</i> , fill out the form below to ensure listed below:	that your information is <i>NOT</i> shared for the child(ren)
Child's Name:	School:
Signature of Parent/Guardian:	Date:
Printed Name:	
Address:	
For more information, you may call your child's sch	ool.

2016-2017 Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil).

STEP

Apply online at

All Adult Household Members (Including Yourself)
List all household members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself), even if they do not receive income. For each household member listed, if he/she does receive income, income from any source, write 0. If you enter 0 or leave any Migrant, Runaway Monthly Homeless. List ALL household members who are infants, children, and students, up to and including Grade 12 (if more spaces are required for additional names, attach another sheet of paper I am aware that if I purposely give false Vrite only one case number in this space. Month Foster Child weekly MOH B: How Often 2x Month Check all that apply Weekly Check if No SSN Veekty Bi-weekty N Grade | Birth Date | Student? Ž t 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. Information, my children may lose meal benefits and I may be prosecuted under applicable state and federal laws. Retirement/All Other Income <u>Yes</u> STEP 2 Do any household members (including you) currently participate in one or more of the following assistance programs: SNAP, TANE, or FDPIR? Pensions/ Case Number: Income oday's Date Child €9 69 (9 (v) 6 Monthly Daytime Phone and E-Mail (Optional) Menth $X \times X \times X$ Sometimes children in the household earn or receive income. Please include the TOTAL income received by all children in the household listed in STEP 1 here. How Often weekiy 8: School Name Weekly of Primary Wage Earner or Other Adult Household Member fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. If No, go to STEP 3. If Yes, write a case number here, then go to STEP 4. (Do not complete STEP 3.) Public Assistance/ Child Support/ STEP 3 Report income for ALL household members (Skip this step if you answered YES to STEP 2) Alimony Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN) Zip Code gnature of Adult Completing the Form Child's Last Name 64 64) 59 69 **(/**) Monthly weekly Month How Often Bi-Ę, M Weekly Apt# Earnings From Work Child's First Name STEP 4 Contact information and adult signature Child Income Total Household Members (Children and Adults) 64) **€∕**Э 50) Ø Ŕ ρĊ Are you unsure what income to include Names of Adult Household The Sources of Income for Adults chart will help you with the All Adult House Members section. Flip the page, and review the charts titled Sources of Income for more information. The Sources of Income for Children chart will help you with the Child Income sec-Members (First and Last) rinted Name of Adult Signing the Form eligible for free Children in foster care meals. Read How to Ap-Definition of Household Member—Anyone who is living with you and expenses, even if not reand children who meet the definition of homeless, migrant, or runaway oly for Free and Re-School shares income and eet Address (if available) duced-Price lated. are

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 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 fice or reduced-price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number is on the program, or Food Brainthous Assistance for Needy Permissings (TAMPS). Program, or Food Brainthous Assistance for Needy Permissings (TAMPS) Program, or Food Brainthous Assistance for Needy Permissings (TAMPS). Program, or Food Brainthous Assistance for Needy Permissings (TAMPS) Program, or Food Brainthous Assistance for Needy Permissings (TAMPS). Program, or Food Brainthous Program on Indian Reservations (POPIR) case number or other FIOPIR identifier for your child representation 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. In accordance with federal civil fights law and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) givil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, office, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, see, disability, age, or reprisal or retalisation 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, and/ordans, American Sign Language (ASLI)) 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 office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requests a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income Regular income from trusts REGULAR cash payments from outside household railroad retirement and Investment income Private pensions or black lung benefits) disability benefits Earned interest Rental income □ White This institution is an equal opportunity provider Annuities or estates Date Public Assistance/Alimony/Child Support Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Cash assistance from state or local Sources of Income for Adults Denied Verifying Official's Signature Unemployment benefits Eligibility: Worker's compensation · Child support payments Alimony payments Veteran's benefits Strike benefits Free program intake@usda.gov Basic pay and cash bonuses (do E-Mail: FSSA, or privatized housing housing, food, and clothing Salary, wages, cash bonuses Earnings From Work NOT include combat pay, Categorical Eligibility to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals. Allowances for off-base employment (farm or you are in the U.S. Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 Weeks x 26, Twice a Month x 24, Monthly x 12 ☐ Not Hispanic or Latino allowances) Military: business) Confirming Official's Signature ☐ Asian Fax: 202-690-7442 private pension fund, annuity, or part-time job where he/she earns receives social security benefits receives social security benefits member REGULARLY gives a American Indian or Alaskan Native Household Size A parent is disabled, retired, or Children's Racial and Ethnic Identifies A child is blind or disabled and A child receives income from A child has a regular full- or A friend or extended family deceased, and his/her child child spending money a salary or wages reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules. ☐ Hispanic or Latino Monthly Sources of Child Income Do not fill out - For School Use Only Annually Bi-Weekly 2 x Month How Often Date Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 Income from any other source Sources of Child Income Mail: U. S. Department of Agriculture Race (Check One or More): Determining Official's Signature Income from persons OUTSIDE the household —Disability payments —Survivor's benefits Ethnicity (Check One): Earnings from work Total Income

Sources of Income

SHARING INFORMATION WITH MEDICAID/SOONERCARE

Dear Parent/Guardian:

If your children get free or reduced-price school meals, they *MAY* also be able to get free or low-cost health insurance through Medicaid or SoonerCare. Children with health insurance are more likely to get regular health care and are less likely to miss school because of sickness.

Because health insurance is so important to children's well-being, the law allows us to tell Medicaid and SoonerCare that your children are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals unless you tell us not to. Medicaid and SoonerCare only use the information to identify children who may be eligible for their programs. Program officials may contact you to offer to enroll your children. Filling out the Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals does not automatically enroll your children in health insurance.

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	n Medicaid or SoonerCare, fill out the form below and nether your children get free or reduced-price school
No! I DO NOT want information from Meals shared with Medicaid or Sooner	n my Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Care.
If you checked No , fill out the form below to ensure listed below:	that your information is <i>NOT</i> shared for the child(ren)
Child's Name:	School:
Signature of Parent/Guardian:	Date:
Printed Name:	•
Address:	
For more information, you may call your child's sch	ool.