

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

Please use these instructions to help you fill out the application for free or reduced price school meals/milk. You only need to submit **one** application per household, even if your children attend more than one school in **Linn-Mar Community School District**. Please follow these instructions in order. Each step of the instructions is the same as the steps on your application. The application must be filled out completely to certify your children for free or reduced price school meals. **Completed applications should be mailed or returned to: Linn-Mar Nutrition Services, 3556 Winslow Road, Marion, IA 52302.** If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please contact the Linn-Mar Community School District at: **Andrea Fish (319-447-3349) or [afish@linnmar.k12.ia.us](mailto:afish@linnmar.k12.ia.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 age 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 **Linn-Mar Community School District**, regardless of age.

- A) List each child's name and date of birth.** Print each child's first name, middle initial, last name and date of birth (optional). Use one line of the application for each child. If there are more children present than lines on the application, attach a Supplemental Worksheet, which can be obtained from the school, with all required information for the additional children.
- B) Is the child a student?** Mark 'Yes' or 'No' under the column titled "student" to tell us which children attend Cedar Rapids Community School District. If you marked 'Yes' write where the child attends school and write the grade level of the student in the "Grade" column to the right.
- 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 finishing STEP 1, go to "STEP 4". Foster children who live with you may count as members of your household and should be listed on your application. If you are applying for both foster and non-foster children, go to step 3.
- D) Are any children homeless, migrant or runaway?** If you believe any child listed in this section may meet this description, mark the "Homeless, Migrant, Runaway" box next to the child's name and **complete all steps of the application.**
- E) Share children's racial and ethnic identities (optional).** Next to each child's name, 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.

### STEP 2: DO ANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Family Investment Program (FIP) OR FDPIR?

If anyone in your household (including you) currently participates in one or more of the assistance programs listed below, your children are eligible for free school meals:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-formerly Food Assistance in Iowa)  
The Family Investment Program (FIP)  
The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

- If 'NO', go to STEP 3. (Leave the rest of STEP 2 blank)
- If 'YES,' provide a case number for SNAP, FIP, or FDPIR. You only need to write **one** case number. Case numbers are located on your Notice of Decision. **Go to STEP 4.**

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

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 a “0” 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 ‘0’ 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 investigated.

- A) 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.
- B) Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number.** An adult household member must enter the last four digits of their Social Security Number in the space provided.
- C) 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.”

#### FOR EACH ADULT HOUSEHOLD MEMBER:

- D) List all adult household member’s name.** 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.**

#### 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.

Children and students already listed in Step 1.

**Report earnings from work.** Refer to the chart below titled “Sources of Income for Adults” 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 self-employed or farm owner, you will report your net income. Adults who have both income from work and are self-employed should report each income source separately. If you need assistance with this, ask your children’s school for the Supplemental Worksheet which has self-employment calculations.

#### What if I am self-employed?

If you are self-employed, report income from work as a **net** amount. This is calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of your business from its gross receipts and revenue. Ask your school for a Supplemental Worksheet to assist you in determining your monthly gross annual income before deductions.

**Report income from public assistance/child support/alimony.** Refer to the chart below titled “Sources of Income for Adults” 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 report court-ordered payments. Informal but regular payments should be reported as “other” income in the next part.

**Report income from pensions/retirement/all other income.** Refer to Table 2 below titled “Sources of Income for Adults” and report all income that applies in the “Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income” field on the application.

**Table 1. Sources of Income for Adults**

Earnings from Work	Public Assistance/ Alimony/Child Support	Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Salary, wages, cash bonuses</li> <li><b>Net</b> income from self-employment (farm or business)</li> </ul> <p><b>If you are in the U.S. Military:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances)</li> <li>Allowances for off-base housing, food and clothing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unemployment benefits</li> <li>Worker’s compensation</li> <li>Supplemental Security Income (SSI)</li> <li>Cash assistance from State or local government</li> <li>Alimony payments</li> <li>Child support payments</li> <li>Veteran’s benefits</li> <li>Strike benefits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits)</li> <li>Private Pensions or disability benefits</li> <li>Regular Income from trusts or estates</li> <li>Annuities</li> <li>Investment Income</li> <li>Earned interest</li> <li>Rental income</li> <li>Regular cash payments from outside household</li> </ul>

**E) Report all income earned or received by children.** Refer to the table below titled “Sources of Income for Children” and report the combined gross income for ALL children listed in Step 1 in your household in the box marked “Child Income.” Only count foster children’s income if you are applying for them with the rest of your household (income from a part-time job or from any funds provided to the child for the child’s personal use). It is optional for the household to list foster children living with them as part of the household on an application for non-foster children.

**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.

**Table 2. Sources of Income for Children**

Sources of Child Income	Example(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Earnings from work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages. (Infrequent earnings, such as income from occasional babysitting or lawn mowing, are not counted as income.)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social Security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disability Payments</li> <li>Survivor’s Benefits</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits.</li> <li>A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives social security benefits.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Income from person <i>outside</i> the household</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A friend or extended family member <i>regularly</i> gives a child spending money.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Income from any other source</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust.</li> </ul>

**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 back of 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, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.
- B) Print and sign your name and write today's date.** Print the name of the adult signing the application and sign in the box labeled "Signature of adult completing the form."
- C) Mail or return completed form to: Your child's school or Linn-Mar Nutrition Services (3556 Winslow Road, Marion, IA 52302). Please do not mail completed form to the Department of Agriculture as this will delay processing.**
- D) Decline having your information released to Hawk-i.** If you do not want your household information shared with Hawk-i, **print, sign and date in the box provided.**
- E) Obtaining translated applications.** If you need a translated application with instructions, they can be found in 49 languages at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/translated-applications>.

**USDA Nondiscrimination Statement:** In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. **mail:**  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-9410; or
2. **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:** [Program.Intake@usda.gov](mailto:Program.Intake@usda.gov)

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**Iowa Non-Discrimination Statement:** It is the policy of this CNP provider not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, or religion in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code 216.6, 216.7, and 216.9. If you have questions or grievances related to compliance with this policy by this CNP Provider, contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, 6200 Park Ave, Suite 100, Des Moines, IA 50321; phone number 515-281-4121 or 800-457-4416; website: <https://icrc.iowa.gov/>.

## PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION LETTER FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEAL APPLICATION

### Frequently Asked Questions About Free and Reduced Price School Meals

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Linn-Mar Community School District** offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs **\$2.15**; elementary lunch costs **\$3.25**, middle/intermediate lunch cost **\$3.30**, and high school lunch cost **\$3.40**. Your children may qualify for free meals/milk or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is **\$ .30** for breakfast and **\$ .40** for lunch. Please visit our website to complete an application at: **Linnmar.k12.ia.us** or return a completed application to: **Linn-Mar Nutrition Services, 3556 Winslow Road, Marion, IA 52302**.

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 the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Family Investment Program (FIP) or a few specific Medicaid programs are eligible for free or reduced price meals.
- Foster children that 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 at or below the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines below and submit an application for free and reduced price meals/milk.

#### FEDERAL INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES for SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026

Household Size	Yearly	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	28,953	2,413	1,207	1,114	557
2	39,128	3,261	1,631	1,505	753
3	49,303	4,109	2,055	1,897	949
4	59,478	4,957	2,479	2,288	1,144
5	69,653	5,805	2,903	2,679	1,340
6	79,828	6,653	3,327	3,071	1,536
7	90,003	7,501	3,751	3,462	1,731
8	100,178	8,349	4,175	3,853	1,927
Each additional family member:	10,175	848	424	392	196

2. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS? No, but please read the letter carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your notification, contact: **Linn-Mar Nutrition Services (3556 Winslow Rd, Marion, IA 52302), by calling 319-447-3349, or by emailing: afish@Linnmar.k12.ia.us** immediately as eligibility for free or reduced price meals is extended to all school age children in a household. If you did not receive a letter from the school, but received a Free Lunch Notice from the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (Iowa HHS), submit this letter to your children's school. You may add any students living in your household who are not listed on the letter. Also, if someone in your household receives SNAP or FIP benefits and you did not receive either of these letters, you may complete an application listing the case number as this will qualify all school age children in your household for free meals. If you were informed that your children will get reduced price meals, see the income guidelines above and if you feel you would qualify for free meal benefits, complete an application for free and reduced price meals.
3. WHAT IF WE HAVE FOSTER CHILDREN? Households with foster and non-foster children may choose to include the foster child as a household member, as this may help other children in the household qualify for benefits. If the foster family is not eligible for free or reduced price meal benefits, that does not prevent a foster child from receiving free meal benefits.
4. 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 haven't been told your children will get free meals, please contact: **Stacy Fish at sfish2@Linnmar.k12.ia.us or 319-447-3302**.

5. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No, complete the applications for free and reduced price school meals for all the students in your household. We cannot approve an application unless complete eligibility information is submitted, so be sure to complete all required information.
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 30 school days of the next school year**. You must complete a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. When the carryover period ends, unless you are notified that your children will receive free meals or you submit an application that is approved, the children must pay full price for school meals. The school is not required to send a reminder or a notice of expired eligibility.
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 complete and send in an application.
8. 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.
9. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes, we may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report. You are not required to provide proof with your application.
10. 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 or reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit, if your household size goes up, or if you start getting SNAP, FIP or other benefits.
11. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION? You should talk to your school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: **Stacy Fish, Nutrition Services Manager, 319-447-3302 or sfish2@Linnmar.k12.ia.us**.
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 the 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.
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. DO I NEED TO PROVIDE MY SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER? Only the last four digits of the Social Security Number of the household's primary wage earner or another adult household member (or an indication of "none") is needed.
16. WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY? List any additional household members on a Supplemental Worksheet and attach it to your application. Contact: **Linn-Mar Nutrition Services (3556 Winslow Rd, Marion, IA 52302), by calling 319-447-3349, or by email afish@Linnmar.k12.ia.us** to receive a Supplemental Worksheet.
17. WHO CAN GET FREE MILK? If your school participates in the Special Milk Program for half day kindergarteners, your kindergarten child may be eligible for free milk. Children who buy extra milk with a meal or if they eat breakfast or lunch and have an afternoon milk break, are not eligible to receive free milk.
18. 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. Your children



may be eligible for Hawki (children's health insurance) or a waiver of school fees. Read the information on the back of the Application for Hawki information. A school waiver form is available from your school.

19. CAN CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES GET FOOD SUBSTITUTIONS? If a child has a disability, as determined by a licensed medical professional, and the disability prevents the child from eating the regular school meal, the school will make substitutions prescribed by the licensed medical professional. If a substitution is needed, there will be no extra charge for the meal. Please note, however, that the school is not required to make a substitution for a food allergy, unless it meets the definition of disability. Please call the school for further information.
20. DO I NEED TO REPORT MY RACE AND ETHNICITY? It is optional to complete the racial/ethnic portion of the application.
21. Translated applications are available at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/translated-applications>.

If you have other questions or need help, call **LM Nutrition Services at 319-447-3349** or [afish@Linnmar.k12.ia.us](mailto:afish@Linnmar.k12.ia.us).

*Sincerely,*

**Stacy Fish, Nutrition Services Manager**

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Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. **mail:**  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-9410; or
2. **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:** [Program.Intake@usda.gov](mailto:Program.Intake@usda.gov)

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**Iowa Non-Discrimination Statement:** (revised 7-1-25) It is the policy of this CNP provider not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, age, or religion in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code 216.6, 216.7, and 216.9. If you have questions or grievances related to compliance with this policy by this CNP Provider, contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, 6200 Park Ave, Suite 100, Des Moines, IA 50321; phone number 515-281-4121 or 800-457-4416; website: <https://icrc.iowa.gov/>.

**The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires that we use information from this application to see who qualifies for free or reduced price meals. We can only approve complete forms.** We may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them deliver program benefits to your household. Inspectors and law enforcement may also use your information to make sure that program rules are met. Please be sure to provide the last four numbers of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application. If the adult does not have one, 'Check if no Social Security Number.' Applications for a foster child do not need to list a Social Security number. Applications for children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) do not need to list a Social Security number. Some children qualify for free meals without an application. Please contact your school to get free meals for a foster child, and children who are homeless, migrant, or runaway.

**2025-2026 Iowa Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals/Milk** Complete one application per household. Use a pen (not a pencil). Please read "How to Apply for Free and Reduced Price School Meals" for more information on completing this application

STEP 1 List ALL Household Members who are infants, children, and students up grade 12 (if more spaces are required for additional names, attach the supplemental worksheet)													
<b>Definition of Household Member:</b> "Anyone who is living with you and shares income and expenses, even if not related." Children in <b>Foster care</b> and children who meet the definition of <b>Homeless, Migrant or Runaway</b> are eligible for free meals. 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.	Child's First Name	MI	Child's Last Name	Date of Birth	Student		Child's School and Grade	Foster Child	Homeless Migrant Runaway	OPTIONAL Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free/reduced price meals.			
					Yes	No		Check all that apply		Ethnicity		Race	
					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hispanic or Latino	Non-Hispanic/Latino	A=Asian W=White I=American Indian/Alaskan Native B=Black/African American P=Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

STEP 2 Do any Household Members (including you) currently participate in one or more of the following assistance programs: SNAP, FIP or FDIPIR? If No, go to STEP 3. If you answered Yes, write a case number here then go to STEP 4 (Do not complete STEP 3). Write only one case number in this space. Medicaid and EBT card numbers are NOT acceptable		Case Number: _____
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STEP 3 Report Income for ALL Household Members (Skip this step if you answered 'Yes' to STEP 2)							Apply online: <a href="https://linnmar.familyportal.cloud/">https://linnmar.familyportal.cloud/</a>						
A. Total Number of All Household Members (Children + Adults)			B. Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of Adult Household Member (last 4 digits)				C. Check No SSN (adult): <input type="checkbox"/>						
D. All Adult Household Members (include yourself): List all Household Members not listed in STEP 1 even if they do not receive income. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0'. If you enter '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. Applications with blank income fields will be processed as complete. If more spaces are required for additional names, attach the supplemental worksheet. The sources of income for section will help you with the adult income on the next page. Report each income separately and in whole dollar amounts before deductions or taxes. For a household with income from wages and self-employment, each amount must be listed separately.													
Names of All Adult Household Members First and Last Names. Include children who are temporarily away at school or in college.	Gross Earnings from Work/All Other Income					Gross Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony				Gross Pension/Retirement			
	Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	2x Month	Monthly	Annual	Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	2x Month	Monthly	Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	2x Month	Monthly
\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Child Income: Sometimes children in the household earn or receive income. Please include the TOTAL gross earned income by all Children listed in STEP 1 here. The sources of income for children section on the next page will help you with the Child Income.						Total Income Received by All Children		Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	2x Month	Monthly	Annual	
\$								<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

STEP 4 Contact Information and Adult Signature		Return completed form to: Linn-Mar Community School District Attn: Nutrition Services 3556 Winslow Road Marion, IA 523022
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"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."

Signature of adult completing the form		Printed name of adult completing the form		Today's Date	
Street Address (if available)	Apt. #	City	State	Zip	Daytime Phone (optional) Email (optional)

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE. FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY				PAGE TWO CONTAINS MORE INFORMATION		
Annual Income Conversion (if needed)				Household Size: _____	Total Income: \$ _____	Application #: _____
Weekly (x52)	Every 2 Weeks (x26)	2x Month (x24)	Monthly (x12)			Date Received: _____
Signature and Effective Date of Determining Official				Signature and Date of Confirming Official		Signature and Date of Verification Follow-Up
Application <input type="checkbox"/> Income <input type="checkbox"/> Foster Child <input type="checkbox"/> FIP/SNAP <input type="checkbox"/> Head Start (confirmation required) <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless/Migrant/Runaway-Local Official confirmation Required						
Eligibility Determination <input type="checkbox"/> Free <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced <input type="checkbox"/> Free Milk				Application Denied <input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete <input type="checkbox"/> Over Income Limits		



### Low-Cost Health Insurance for Children

If your children do not have health insurance, many families getting free or reduced price meals can also get free or low-cost health insurance for their children. The law requires public schools to share your free and reduced price meal eligibility information with Medicaid and Hawki, the State's medical insurance program for children. Private schools, RCCIs and childcare organizations may choose to share this information. Specifically, we will give them your child's name, your name and address. Medicaid and Hawki can only use the information to identify children who may be eligible for free or low-cost health insurance and contact you. They are not allowed to use the information from your free and reduced meal application for any other purpose or to share it with any other entity or program. You are not required to allow us to share this information, it will not affect your child's eligibility for free or reduced price meals. **If you do NOT want your information shared with Medicaid or Hawki, you must tell us by completing the information below.** If you want further information, you may call Hawki at 1-800-257-8563. Also, if you are already receiving Medicaid or Hawki, please sign below. This will avoid another contact.

My signature below indicates I DO NOT want school officials to share information from my free and reduced price meal application with Medicaid or Hawki.

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires that we use information from this application to see who qualifies for free or reduced price meals. We can only approve complete forms.** We may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them deliver program benefits to your household. Inspectors and law enforcement may also use your information to make sure that program rules are met. Please be sure to provide the last four numbers of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application. If the adult does not have one, 'Check if no Social Security Number.' Applications for a foster child do not need to list a Social Security number. Applications for children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) do not need to list a Social Security number. Some children qualify for free meals without an application. Please contact your school to get free meals for a foster child, and children who are homeless, migrant, or runaway.

**USDA Nondiscrimination Statement:** In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

**\* mail:**

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

**fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

**email:**  
[program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

**\*Do not mail applications to this address, only complaints of discrimination.**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Translated applications are available at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/translated-applications>

**Iowa Non-Discrimination Statement:** (revised 7-1-25) It is the policy of this CNP provider not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, age, or religion in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code 216.6, 216.7, and 216.9. If you have questions or grievances related to compliance with this policy by this CNP Provider, contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, 6200 Park Ave, Suite 100, Des Moines, IA 50321; phone number 515-281-4121 or 800-457-4416; website: <https://icrc.iowa.gov/>.

**Return completed form to:** Linn-Mar Community School District Attn: Nutrition Services 3556 Winslow Road Marion, IA 52302

### Waiver Information

If your child(ren) qualifies for free or reduced-price meals, you may also be eligible for other benefits. If you sign this waiver, your child(ren) will be considered for items such as a full or partial waiver of school fees, Kirkwood drivers ed, the backpack program, fees, Prom tickets, sports passes or activity passes. I understand that I will be releasing information that will show that I applied for free and reduced-price school meals for my child(ren). I give up my rights to confidentiality for these benefits. I certify that I am the parent/guardian of the child(ren) for whom application is being made. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO COMPLETE THIS WAIVER TO GET FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS.**

Signature of Parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Sources and Examples of Income	For additional information on income, please refer to the instructions that accompany this application			Examples of Income for Children
Earning from Work	Public Assistance/Alimony/Child Support	Pensions/Retirement/All other sources of Income		
• Salary, wages, cash bonuses, tips or commissions	• Unemployment benefits	• Social Security/Disability (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits)		• A child has full or part-time job where a salary/wages are earned
• Net income from self-employments (farm or business)	• Workers' compensation	• Private Pensions or disability benefits		• A child received income from a private pension fund, annuity or trust
	• Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	• Income from trusts or estates		• A parent is disabled, retired or deceased and their child receives Social Security benefits
<b>If you are in the U.S. Military</b>	• Cash assistance from state or local government	• Annuities		• A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money
• Basic pay and cash bonuses (do not include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances)	• Alimony payments	• Investment Income		• A child is disabled and receives Social Security benefits
• Allowances for off-based housing, food and clothing	• Child support payments	• Earned Interest		
	• Veterans benefits	• Rental Income		
	• Strike benefits	• Regular cash payments from outside the household		



# Optional Supplemental Worksheet 2025-2026 Iowa Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals/Milk

## Additional Children in Your Household (not listed on page 1)

Child's First Name	MI	Child's Last Name	Date of Birth	Student		Child's School	Grade	Foster Child	Homeless, Migrant, Runaway	OPTIONAL	
				YES	NO					Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free/reduced price meals.	
										Ethnicity	Race

Any income earned by the above listed children should be included under Step 3 E on the first page of the application.

## Additional Adults in Your Household (Not listed on page 1)

Names of All Adult Household Members  First and Last Names. Include children who are temporarily away at school or in college.	Gross Earnings from Work/All Other Income					Gross Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony					Gross Pension/Retirement				
	How Often? (mark "X" in box)					How Often? (mark "X" in box)					How Often? (mark "X" in box)				
	Weekly	Bi-weekly	2x Month	Monthly	Yearly	Weekly	Bi-weekly	2x Month	Monthly	Weekly	Bi-weekly	2x Month	Monthly		
	\$					\$					\$				
	\$					\$					\$				
	\$					\$					\$				
	\$					\$					\$				
	\$					\$					\$				
	\$					\$					\$				

### Self-Employment Income Calculations

This guidance will assist you in calculating the amount to report if you engage in farming, are self-employed or have income from other sources.

Self-employed persons may use income tax records for the preceding calendar year as a base to project the current year's net income, unless the current monthly income provides a more accurate measure. Report income derived from the business venture less the operating costs incurred in the generation of that income. Deductions for personal expenses such as interest on home payments, medical expenses, and other similar non-business deductions are not allowed in reducing gross business income. Additional income from other kinds of employment must be treated as separate and apart from the income generated or lost from your business venture. For example, if you operated a business at a net loss, but held additional employment for which a salary was received, the income for purposes of applying for reduced price or free meals would be the income from the salary only. The loss from the business cannot be deducted from a positive income earned in other employment. For purposes of this application, it is not possible to report a negative income from any business venture. The least income possible is zero (no income). The necessary information for arriving at allowable income from private business operation may be taken from your most recent U.S. Individual Income Tax Return - Form 1040 or 1040-SR and Schedule 1. Add together the amounts reported on the following lines:

Capital Gain or (Loss) Form 1040 or 1040-SR, LINE 7 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Business Income or (Loss) Schedule 1 Part 1, LINE 3 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other Gains or (Losses) Schedule 1 Part 1, LINE 4 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Rental real estate, royalties, partnerships, S corporations, trusts, etc. Schedule 1 Part 1, LINE 5 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Income or (Loss) Schedule 1 Part 1, LINE 6 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Gross Annual Income Before Any Deductions. Report in Step 3 under All Other Income (Computed Monthly Income \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Gross Annual Income ÷ 12)

For a household with income wages and self-employment, each amount must be listed separately



Inspire Learning. **Unlock Potential. Empower Achievement.**

NUTRITION SERVICES

Dear Linn-Mar family,

This letter gives you information on how to apply for free or reduced meals. The web-based application can be found in Meal Magic, or a paper copy can be printed from the Nutrition Services website, we are providing this information to **ALL** Linn-Mar families, if this information is not applicable for your family, simply discard.

**Eligibility for free or reduced meals must be approved each school year.**

If you have been eligible in the past, information **must be updated** in one of the three ways listed below.

1. **If your family is eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program (SNAP) or Family Investment Program(FIP).** information will be shared by HHS. No further application is necessary.

2. **If you receive a letter from HHS indicating eligibility, mail it or bring it to our office.** No further application is necessary.

3. All other families may **complete the application online in Meal Magic or print the application** and return it to the Nutrition Services office at 3556 Winslow Road Marion, Iowa 52302 or it may be returned to any Linn-Mar school office. **Only one application per family is required.**

**IMPORTANT:** Please be sure to list all students and household members on the application and sign the form. Also read/sign the back page of the form. A Supplemental Worksheet is also provided if you need additional space to add household members or apply for a fee waiver.

If you have questions or need additional information please contact Andrea Fish, Nutrition Services Administrative Assistant at (319) 447-3349 or Stacy Fish, Nutrition Services Manager at (319) 447- 3302.

(\*Copies of all forms are available in Spanish and other languages upon request.)

Thank you,

Stacy Fish  
Nutrition Services Manager  
Linn-Mar Community School District  
3556 Winslow Road



## Public Release for Schools Operating the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program

The Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services, has finalized its policy for free and reduced price meals for students unable to pay the full price of meals served under the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program and the Afterschool Care Snack Program.

State and Local school officials have adopted the following family size and income criteria for determining eligibility:

### INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES (Effective 7-1-2025)

Household Size	Free Meals					Reduced Price Meals				
	Yearly	Monthly	Twice a Month	Every two weeks	Weekly	Yearly	Monthly	Twice a Month	Every two weeks	Weekly
1	20,345	1,696	848	783	392	28,953	2,413	1,207	1,114	557
2	27,495	2,292	1,146	1,058	529	39,128	3,261	1,631	1,505	753
3	34,645	2,888	1,444	1,333	667	49,303	4,109	2,055	1,897	949
4	41,795	3,483	1,742	1,608	804	59,478	4,957	2,479	2,288	1,144
5	48,945	4,079	2,040	1,883	942	69,653	5,805	2,903	2,679	1,340
6	56,095	4,675	2,338	2,158	1,079	79,828	6,653	3,327	3,071	1,536
7	63,245	5,271	2,636	2,433	1,217	90,003	7,501	3,751	3,462	1,731
8	70,395	5,867	2,934	2,708	1,354	100,178	8,349	4,175	3,853	1,927
For each additional family member add:	7,150	596	298	275	138	10,175	848	424	392	196

Households may be eligible for free or reduced-price meal benefits one of four ways

- Households whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for reduced price meals or free meals, if they complete an application for free and reduced price school meals/milk. Households may complete one application listing all children and return it to your student's school. When completing an application, only the last four digits of the social security number of the household's primary wage earner or another adult household member is needed.
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households, students receiving benefits under the Family Investment Program (FIP) and students in a few specific Medicaid programs are eligible for free or reduced price meals. Most students from SNAP and FIP households will be qualified for free meals automatically. These households will receive a letter from their student's schools notifying them of their benefits. Households that receive a letter from the school need to do nothing more for their student(s) to receive free or reduced price meals. No further application is necessary. If any students were not listed on the notice of eligibility, the household should contact the school to have free or reduced price meal benefits extended to them. If you feel you would qualify for free meal benefits and received notification qualifying for reduced price benefits, complete an application for free and reduced price meals. Households must contact the school if they choose to decline meal benefits.
- Some SNAP and FIP households will receive a letter from the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (Iowa HHS) which will qualify the children listed on the letter for free meals. Parents must take this letter to the student's school to receive free meals.
- SNAP or FIP households receiving benefits that do not receive a letter from Iowa HHS must complete an application with the abbreviated information as indicated on the application and instructions, for their students to receive free meals. When the application lists an assistance program's case number for any household member, eligibility for free benefits is extended to all students in a household.

Eligibility from the previous year will continue within the same school for up to 30 operating days into the new school year. When the carryover period ends, unless the household is notified that their students are directly certified or the household submits an application that is approved, the students must pay full price for school



meals and the school will not send a reminder or a notice of expired eligibility. An application cannot be approved unless complete eligibility information is submitted. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year. If a family member becomes unemployed the family should contact the school to complete an application. Households notified of their student's eligibility must contact the school if the household chooses to decline the free meal benefits.

Foster children are eligible for free meal benefits. Some foster students will be qualified for free meals automatically through the state direct certification process. Their host family will receive notification of these benefits. Families that receive this notification from the school need to do nothing more for their foster students to receive free meals. If a family has foster students living with them and does not receive notification and wishes to apply for such meals, instructions for making application for such students are contained on the application form. A foster student may be included as a member of the foster family if the foster family chooses to also apply for benefits for other students. Including students in foster care as household members may help other students in the household qualify for benefits. If the foster family is not eligible for free or reduced price meal benefits, it does not prevent a foster student from receiving benefits. Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) participants may be eligible for free or reduced price meals based on a completed application.

When known by the school, households will be notified of any child eligible for free meals if the children are enrolled in the Head Start/Even Start program or are considered homeless, migrant or runaway. If any children are not listed on the notice of eligibility, contact the school for assistance in receiving benefits. If households are dissatisfied with the application approval done by the officials, they may make a formal appeal either orally or in writing to the school's designated hearing official. The policy statement on file at the school contains an outline of the hearing procedure. School officials may verify the information in the application, and that deliberate misrepresentation of information may subject the applicant to prosecution under applicable state and federal criminal statutes. Households should contact their local school for additional information.

There will be no discrimination against individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) in the school meal programs.

**Nondiscrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.** In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. **mail:**  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-9410; or
2. **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:** [Program.Intake@usda.gov](mailto:Program.Intake@usda.gov)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

**Iowa Non-Discrimination Statement:** (revised 7-1-25) It is the policy of this CNP provider not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, age, or religion in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code 216.6, 216.7, and 216.9. If you have questions or grievances related to compliance with this policy by this CNP Provider, contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, 6200 Park Ave, Suite 100, Des Moines, IA 50321; phone number 515-281-4121 or 800-457-4416; website: <https://icrc.iowa.gov/>.

## LINN-MAR COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT MEAL CHARGE POLICY

In accordance with state and federal law, the Linn-Mar Community School District adopts the following policy to ensure school district employees, families, and students have a shared understanding of expectations regarding meal charges. The policy seeks to allow students to receive the nutrition they need to stay focused during the school day, prevent the overt identification of students with insufficient funds to pay for school meals, and maintain the financial integrity of the nonprofit school nutrition program.

### PAYMENT OF MEALS

Each student is assigned a computerized meal account. Parents/guardians pre-pay into a student's meal account by sending a check to the student's school, district business office, or paying online with debit/credit card at <https://intouch.linnmar.k12.ia.us>. During meal service, students scan an ID badge at the cash register and the computer debits and records purchases from the student's meal account. You can find lunch deposit instructions at: <https://www.linnmar.k12.ia.us/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/2017-18-Lunch-Deposit-Instruction.pdf>.

### MEAL CHARGING

The Nutrition Services department closely monitors student accounts to prevent negative balances and changes as follows:

#### Students:

Students that fail to have positive account balances may charge meals under the following parameters:

- Students will be served a full regular meal (breakfast or lunch);
- Allergies will be taken into consideration;
- No snacks or a la carte items may be charged; with the exception of milk; and
- Families will receive email communications when the account balance is low or negative.

#### Staff/Adults:

- No charges of meals or a la carte items allowed;
- Will be notified of their balance verbally at the cash register when the balance falls below \$15; and
- Will receive email communications when the account balance is negative.

Students who qualify for free or reduced meals shall never be denied a reimbursable meal even if they have accrued a negative balance from previous purchases. Schools are encouraged to provide a reimbursable meal to students with outstanding meal charge debt. If an alternate meal is provided, the meal must be the same meal presented in the same manner to any student requesting an alternate meal.

### NEGATIVE ACCOUNT BALANCES

The school district will make reasonable efforts to notify families when meal account balances are low. However, the failure of the school district to notify families will not relieve the family's obligations to keep meal account balances current; nor will it prevent the school district from being able to take all actions legally available to collect any delinquent account balances. Additionally, the school district will make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges classified as delinquent debt. Negative balances of more than \$20.00, not paid prior to the end of the school year will be turned over to the Nutrition Services Manager [or designee] for collection. Options may include collection agencies, small claims court, or any other legal method permitted by law.

If you are having problems paying for school meals, please contact the Nutrition Services department. We will make every attempt to work out a payment plan or help you apply for assistance.

In keeping with Linn-Mar's collection recovery plan, meal accounts carrying a negative balance of \$50.00, for over 90 days, will be turned over to CBSI collection agency.

Checks returned due to non-sufficient funds will be re-presented electronically and charged a collection fee. The amount of the check will be debited from the family meal account, which may create a negative meal account balance. Upon notification that the check has been cleared with eTech, the meal account will be credited for the amount of the check.