



2017-2018 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED MEALS (FARMS)

Children need healthy meals to learn. Anderson School District 2 (ASD2) offers healthy meals every school day. Meal Cost are as follow:

Elementary: Normal breakfast costs [\$1.00] Normal lunch costs [\$2.00]
Middle/High: Normal breakfast costs [\$1.00] Normal lunch costs [\$2.20]

Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals.

Reduced price is [\$.30] for breakfast and [\$.40] for lunch.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from [State SNAP], [the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)] or [State TANF], are eligible for free meals.
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court 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.

Household size	Federal Poverty Guidelines	(1) Free meals – 130%					(2) Reduced price meals – 185%				
	Annual	Annual	Monthly	Twice per month	Every two weeks	Weekly	Annual	Monthly	Twice per month	Every two weeks	Weekly
1.....	12,060	15,678	1,307	654	603	302	22,311	1,860	930	859	430
2.....	16,240	21,112	1,760	880	812	406	30,044	2,504	1,252	1,156	578
3.....	20,420	26,546	2,213	1,107	1,021	511	37,777	3,149	1,575	1,453	727
4.....	24,600	31,980	2,665	1,333	1,230	615	45,510	3,793	1,897	1,751	876
5.....	28,780	37,414	3,118	1,559	1,439	720	53,243	4,437	2,219	2,048	1,024
6.....	32,960	42,848	3,571	1,786	1,648	824	60,976	5,082	2,541	2,346	1,173
7.....	37,140	48,282	4,024	2,012	1,857	929	68,709	5,726	2,863	2,643	1,322
8.....	41,320	53,716	4,477	2,239	2,066	1,033	76,442	6,371	3,186	2,941	1,471
For each additional family member, add	4,180	5,434	453	227	209	105	7,733	645	323	298	149

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

1. 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. Incomplete FARM applications are returned to the parent or the parent may receive a phone call. If you complete a paper application instead of an online application, return the completed application to your child’s school or to:

Pam McDowell—10990 Belton Honea Path Highway—Honea Path, SC 29654—864-369-7364



2. When should I submit a Free and Reduced Meal (FARM) Application?

- **4K FARM Application Process**

Instructional Support Services will use the current year FARM eligibility table to determine if a child meets the requirements for Free or Reduced lunch. If accepted to the 4K program, parents must then complete a current year FARM application during the home visit or during student registration.

- **General FARM Application Process**

All returning and new students to ASD2 must complete a FARM application within the first thirty (30) days of the new school year (Due by October 4, 2017). Failure to submit a new FARM application will result in a student incurring a cafeteria debt for all meals eaten.

3. If I am transferring to ASD2 from another school district, does my lunch status transfer automatically?

Yes, if providing approved 2017-2018 FARM application from the transferring school. If no documentation can be provided, a new FARM application needs to be completed for ASD2.

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 the administrative offices of ASD2 and ask to speak to the homeless liaison coordinator.

5. How long does it take for a FARM application to be processed?

Applications are processed within ten (10) business days upon receipt of application.

6. Am I responsible for meal charges incurred during the FARM application processing period?

- Students who were previously approved for Free or Reduced meals have a thirty (30) day grace period to submit a new FARM application. Students will not incur a cafeteria balance unless they do not submit a new FARM application before the grace period ends on October 4, 2017.
- Students who were **NOT** previously approved for Free or Reduced meals will be charged for each meal eaten pending approval of a new FARM application.
- Students who have an excessive cafeteria balance will receive an alternative lunch until the outstanding balance has been resolved with the school.

7. 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 Anderson2.org to begin or to learn more about the online application process. Contact Pam McDowell if you have any questions about the online 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 DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER?

Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit. Students who were **NOT** previously approved for Free or Reduced meals will be charged for each meal eaten pending approval of a new FARM application.



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: 864-369-7364

11. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN?

Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced price meals.

12. Why am I receiving a cafeteria debt notice if my child has been approved for Free or Reduced meals?

- Debt balances carry over from year to year. Any unpaid balances from previous years are considered outstanding until cleared.
- If FARM applications are not received within the thirty (30) day grace period, any debt incurred prior to submission of a new FARM application is considered outstanding until cleared.

If you have other questions or need help, please call 864-369-7364.