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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**JEFFCO SCHOOLS' ANNOUNCES FEDERAL FOOD PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

As part of federal guidelines to inform our Jeffco community about assistance programs and resources available to families, Jeffco Schools announces its policy for determining eligibility of children who may receive free and reduced price meals served under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs.

Local school officials use the following size and income criteria for determining eligibility.

<b>Family Size</b>	<b>FREE MEALS</b>	<b>REDUCED PRICE MEALS</b>
	<b>Yearly</b>	<b>Yearly</b>
1	1. \$14,521	1. \$20,665
2	1. \$19,669	1. \$27,991
3	1. \$24,817	1. \$35,317
4	1. \$29,965	1. \$42,643
5	1. \$35,113	1. \$49,969
6	1. \$40,261	1. \$57,295
7	1. \$45,409	1. \$64,621
8	1. \$50,557	1. \$71,947
For each additional family member add:	1. \$5,148	1. \$7,326

Children from families whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced price meals.

Application forms are being provided to all homes with a letter to parents. Additional copies are available in each school. The inf

data. Applications from families receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits (formerly the Food Stamp Program) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) need to list only the children's names, name of the person receiving the program benefits, respective case number, and the signature of an adult household member.

All other households that would qualify based upon income must show the names of all household members related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends), the amount of gross income each person receives in a month, the source and frequency of pay, the signature of an adult household member, and the last four digits of that adult's social security number—or check the box if the adult does not have a social security number. The information on the application may be verified by the school or other program officials at any time during the school year.

Foster children who are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for free meals regardless of income. If a family has foster children living with them and wishes to apply for meals, they should complete the application using the instructions for households that have foster and non-foster children residing in the home.

Under the provision of the policy, **Ruth Campisi** will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with the decision, a request may be made to discuss it with the determining official. A formal appeal may be made either orally or in writing to **Linda Stoll** for a hearing to appeal the decision. The policy contains an outline of the hearing procedure.

Applications may be submitted any time during the school year. If you are not eligible now, but have a decrease in income, become unemployed, have an increase in family size, or become eligible for SNAP or FDPIR benefits, you may fill out an application at that time.

Each school has a copy of the complete policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

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The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We MAY share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits

for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

**Non-discrimination statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.** “In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”