GIRARD SCHOOLS USD #248

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Girard Schools USD #248 offers healthy meals every school day. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals.

	Eleme	entary	Middle o	r Jr. High	High School		
Meal Charges	Full Reduced Price Price		Full Price	Reduced Price	Full Price	Reduced Price	
Lunch	\$2.45	\$0.40	\$2.65	\$0.40	\$2.65	\$0.40	
Breakfast	\$1.50	\$.30	\$1.50	\$0.30	\$1.50	\$0.30	
After School Snack	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	

An application for free or reduced price meal benefits and a set of detailed instructions is included with this letter or available online at www.girard248.org. Contact Sherise Beckham at (620) 724-4323 with questions or to request an application be sent. 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 Food Assistance (FA), the Food Distribution **Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)** or **Temporary Assistance for Families (TAF)** 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 participating in their school's Head Start/Even 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 2016-2017								
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 haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail Blaise Bauer, Superintendent, bbauer@girard248.org, (620) 724-4325.
- 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: Sherise Beckham, 415 North Summit Girard, KS 66743,(620) 724-4323.
- 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 Sherise Beckham, 415 North Summit Girard, KS 66743, sbeckham@girard248.org, (620) 724-4323 immediately.

- 5. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? Not Available ⊠, 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 www.girard248.org to begin or TO learn more about the online application process. Contact Sherise Beckham, 415 North Summit, Girard, Kansas 66743, (620)724-4323, sbeckham@girard248.org 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 29, 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 <u>may</u> 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 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.
- 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: Blaise Bauer, 415 North Summit, Girard, Kansas 66743, (620) 724-4375, bbauer@girard248.org.
- 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. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you <u>normally</u> 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 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will <u>also</u> be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you <u>meant</u> 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 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. WHAT IF THERE ISN'T 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 Sherise Beckham, 415 North Summit, Girard, KS 66743, (620) 724-4323, sbeckham@girard248.org 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 Food Assistance (FA) or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-888-369-4777.

If you have other questions or need help, call (620) 724-4323.

Sincerely,

Sherise Beckham MS, RD, LD

Foodservice Director

Girard Schools USD #248

APPLICATION PACKET FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

How to Apply for Free and Reduced Price School Meals. For translated materials, go to <u>www.kn-eat.org</u>, School Nutrition Programs, Administration, Foreign Language Translation. 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, <u>even if your</u> <u>children attend more than one school in Girard Schools USD #248</u>. 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 Sherise Martin, (620) 724-4323, sbekcham@girard248.org.

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 Girard Schools USD #248, regardless of age.

A) List each child's name. Print each	B) Is the child a student at Girard Schools	C) Do you have any foster children? If any children	D) Are any children homeless,
child's name. Use one line of the	USD #248? Mark 'Yes' or 'No' under the	listed are foster children, mark the "Foster Child" box	migrant, or runaway? If you
application for each child. When printing	column titled "Student" to tell us which	next to the child's name. If you are ONLY applying for	believe any child listed in this
names, write one letter in each box. Stop	children attend Girard Schools USD #248.	foster children, after finishing STEP 1 , go to STEP 4 .	section meets this description,
if you run out of space. If there are more	If you marked 'Yes,' write the name of the	Foster children who live with you may count as	mark the "Homeless, Migrant,
children present than lines on the	school and the grade level of the student	members of your household and should be listed on	Runaway" box next to the
application, attach a second piece of	in the 'School' and 'Grade' columns to the	your application. If you are applying for both foster	child's name and complete all
paper with all required information for	right.	and non-foster children, go to step 3.	steps of the application.
the additional children.			

STEP 2: DO ANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN FOOD ASSISTANCE, TAF, 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:								
Food Assistance (FA). Tempora	ary Assistance for Families (TAF). • The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).							
A) If no one in your household participates in any	B) If anyone in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:							
of the above listed programs:	• Write a case number for FA, TAF, or FDPIR. You only need to provide one case number. If you participate in one of these							
• Leave STEP 2 blank and go to STEP 3.	programs and do not know your case number, contact Kansas Department for Children and Families.							
	• Go to STEP 4.							

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.
 - o 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 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.

3.A. REPORT INCOME EARNED BY CHILDREN							
A) Report all income earned or received by children. 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 together with the r	est of your household.					
What is Child Income? Child income is m	oney received from outside your househol	d that is naid DIRECTLY	to your childre	n. Many households do not have any child income.			
3.B REPORT INCOME EARNED BY AD			to your childre	in many nousenous do not have any child income.			
Who should I list here?							
• When filling out this section, please	nclude ALL adult members in your househ	old who are living with	ou and share i	ncome and expenses, even if they are not related and			
even if they do not receive income o	<u>í their own.</u>						
• Do NOT include:							
	not supported by your household's income	AND do not contribute	income to you	r household.			
 Infants, Children and students alree 							
B) List adult household members'	C) Report earnings from work. Report all			rt income from public assistance/child			
names. Print the name of each	"Earnings from Work" field on the application of the second former secon	-		/alimony. Report all income that applies in the "Public			
household member in the boxes marked "Names of Adult Household	money received from working at jobs. If y			nce/Child Support/Alimony" field on the application. <u>Do</u>			
Members (First and Last)." Do not list	business or farm owner, you will report y detailed instructions on the back of the a			ort the cash value of any public assistance benefits NOT n the chart. If income is received from child support or			
any household members you listed in	detailed instructions on the back of the a	pplication.		alimony, only report court-ordered payments. Informal but			
STEP 1. If a child listed in STEP 1 has	What if I are calf ampleved? Depart inco	no from that work on a		regular payments should be reported as "other" income in the			
income, follow the instructions in STEP	What if I am self-employed? Report inco amount. This is calculated by subtracting		-	next part.			
3, part A.	expenses of your business from its gross						
E) Report income from	F) Report total household size. Enter the		nold G) Prov	ide the last four digits of your Social Security Number.			
pensions/retirement/all other income.	members in the field "Total Household N			t household member must enter the last four digits of			
Report all income that applies in the	Adults)." This number MUST be equal to	•		cial Security Number in the space provided. You are			
"Pensions/Retirement/ All Other	members listed in STEP 1 and STEP 3. If t			eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social			
Income" field on the application.	your household that you have not listed of	on the application, go b	ack Security	Number. If no adult household members have a Social			
	and add them. It is very important to list	all household members	as Security	Number, leave this space blank and mark the box to the			
	the size of your household affects your el	igibility for free and	right lat	peled "Check if no SSN."			
	reduced price meals.						
STEP 4: CONTACT INFORMAT	ION AND ADULT SIGNATURE						
All applications must be signed by an ad	ult member of the household. By signing t	the application, that ho	usehold memb	er is promising that all information has been			
				d civil rights statements on the back of the			
application.							
A) Provide your contact information. Write your current B) Print and sign your name. Print C) Write today's date. D) Share children's racial and ethnic identities							
address in the fields provided if this information is the name of the adult signing the In the space provided, (optional). On the back of the application, we ask							

address in the fields provided if this information is	the name of the adult signing the	In the space provided,	(optional). On the back of the application, we ask
available. If you have no permanent address, this does not	application and that person signs	write today's date in	you to share information about your children's
make your children ineligible for free or reduced price	in the box "Signature of adult."	the box.	race and ethnicity. This field is optional and does
school meals. Sharing a phone number, email address, or			not affect your children's eligibility for free or
both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need			reduced price school meals.
to contact you.			

2016-2017 Household Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals

Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil).

STEP 1 List ALL	Household Members who are infants, ch	ildren	, and stud	ents up t	o and in	cluding	g grade	12 (if	mor	e spac	ces ar	e requ	uired f	or add	litional	names	s, atta	ach ai	nother	sheet	of pap	ber)	
Definition of Household	Child's First Name	MI	Child's	s Last Na	ime			S	choo	ol						Grad	le		Student' 'es N		Fos Ch	nild M	lomeless, Aigrant, Runaway
Member: "Anyone who is living with you and shares income and expenses, even																		Γ]	Γ		
if not related."																		Г					
Children in Foster care and children who meet the																				all that		<u>ר</u>	
definition of Homeless, Migrant or Runaway are eligible for free meals. Read																							
How to Apply for Free and Reduced Price School																				1	′ <u> </u> 		
Meals for more information.]			
STEP 2 Do any H	ousehold Members (including you) curre	ently p	articipate	in one o	r more o	f the fo	ollowing	assi	stand	ce pro	gram	s: Foc	d Ass	istanc	e, TAF	, or FDI	PIR?						
	If NO > Go to STEP 3. If Y	'ES >	Write a ca	ise numbe	er here the	en ao to	STEP 4	l (Do r	not co	omplete	STFI	⊃ <u>3</u>)	C	ase Nu	mber:								
						g		<u>,</u>										V	Vrite only	one ca:	se numł	ber in th	nis space.
STEP 3 Report Inc	come for ALL Household Members (Skip th	nisste	o if you ans	wered 'Y	′es' to ST	EP 2)																	
	A. Child Income											C	hild inco	me	Wee	kly Bi-Wee	ekly 2x N	Month N	Monthly				
Are you unsure what	Sometimes children in the household earn or Household Members listed in STEP 1 here.	receive	e income. Pl	ease inclu	de the TO	TAL inco	ome rece	eived b	y all			\$) ()) (\bigcirc				
income to include here?	B. All Adult Household Members (inc																		<u> </u>				
Flip the page and review the charts titled "Sources of Income" for more	List all Household Members not listed in STE for each source in whole dollars (no cents) or			,																			,
information.	Name of Adult Household Members (First and Last)	E	arnings from Wo	ork Weel		often?	Monthly			Assistance upport/Alii		Weekly		often?	Monthly			ons/Retire		Weekly	·····	often?	th Monthly
The "Sources of Income for Children" chart will		\$) 0	0	0	\$				0	0	0	0	\$				0	0	0	0
help you with the Child Income section.		\$			$\overline{)}$	\bigcirc	0	\$				\bigcirc	\bigcirc	0	$\overline{\bigcirc}$	\$		+		\Box	$\overline{\bigcirc}$	$\overline{\bigcirc}$	
The "Sources of Income for Adults" chart will help		\$				0	0	\$					0	0	0	\$		_					
you with the All Adult Household Members section.		'L				0	0	. [0	0	0] .		\perp					
Flip the page to learn		\$				0	0	\$				0	0	0	0	\$							0
how to report Income from Self Employment.		\$) $($	0	0	\$				0	0	0	0	\$				0	0	0	0
	Total Household Members (Children and Adults)		t Four Digits nary Wage E		-			er	Х	x x	X	x				Chec	ck if no	5 SSN					
STEP 4 Contact in	nformation and adult signature					louselle		~ I															
	, in the second s	rtod L.	adorstand the	t this inform		n in con-	oction with	the re-	point c	fEodoro	lfunde	and the	techoc	officials	may ya-"	y (choole)	the inf	formatio	n lorr i	ware the	t if Lour	nosely -	nivo.
	ion on this application is true and that all income is repo lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under app				ation is give	n in conn	ection with	i the rec	ceipt of	i redera	i iunas,	and tha	t school	oniciais	may vern	у (спеск)	the init	ornauo	m. i am a	ware ina	t ii i purț	Josely g	ive
Street Address (if available)	Apt #	_	City				State		Z	Zip			Da	aytime I	Phone a	nd Emai	il (optio	onal)					

Printed name of adult signing the form

Signature of adult

Today's date

INSTRUCTIONS Sources of Income

Sour	ces of Income for Children	Sources of Income for Adults						
Sources of Child Income	Example(s)	 Salary, wages, cash bonuses 	 Unemployment benefits Worker's compensation 	 Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits) 				
Earnings from work	 A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages 	 Net income from self- employment (farm or 	Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	 Private pensions or disability benefits Regular income from trusts or estates 				
 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 their child receives Social Security benefits 	business If you are in the U.S. Military: • Basic pay and cash bonuses (do	 Cash assistance from State or local government Alimony payments 	Annuities Investment income Earned interest				
Income from person outside the household	A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money	NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances) Allowances for off-base 	Veteran's benefits	 Rental income Regular cash payments from outside 				
Income from any other source A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust		housing, food and clothing	Strike benefits	household				

Income from Self Employment: 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 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 the salary only. The loss from the business cannot be deducted from a positive income earned in other employment.

OPTIONAL Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities

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 to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.

Ethnicity (check one):	Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or La	atino			
Race (check one or more):	American Indian or Alaskan	Native	Asian	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	White

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 Food Assistance (FA) Temporary Assistance for Families (TAF) 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.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation 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, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), 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 Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter 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
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Do not fill out For School Use Only – Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Bi-Weekly x 26, Twice a Month x 24, Monthly x 12

Total Income: \$ Categorical Eligibility (FA, TAF, FDPII	How Often (Circle One): W BW 2M M Multiple=Yearly R, Foster)	Household Size:	Eligibility: Free OR Reduced Price OR Denied Notes:
Determining Official's Signature:		Approval/Denial Date:	Notification Date:
Processor's Initials:	Confirming Official's Signature (ONLY for applications t	o be verified):	Review Date:

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. Add together the amounts reported on the following lines:

LINE 12	\$ Business Income or (Loss)
LINE 13	\$ Capital Gain or (Loss)
LINE 14	\$ Other Gains or (Losses)
LINE 17	\$ Rental real estate, royalties, partnerships, S corporations, trusts, etc.
LINE 18	\$ Farm Income or (Loss)
TOTAL	\$ Gross Annual Income Before Any Deductions.
Computed Monthly Income	\$ Gross Annual Income + 12 = Computed Monthly Income. Report in Step 3