

## Media Release for Seamless Summer Option Free Meals in School Year 2021-2022 Sample

*{Cisco Independent School District}* announced its policy today that this school year, healthy meals will be offered every school day to all students at no cost. Typically, a student's household must meet income eligibility requirements to qualify for free or reduced-price meals. However, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued guidance that allows schools to offer meals to all students at no cost for the 2021-2022 school year.

While no application or eligibility determination is required for your student to receive free meals this school year, income eligibility requirements will likely resume in the 2022-2023 school year. As such, *{Cisco Independent School District}* will process household applications during School Year 2021-2022 to ensure student eligibility for free or reduced-price meals during the first 30 days of the 2022-2023 school year while 2022-2023 applications are being processed. Each school/site or central office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed upon request.

Starting on *{8-18-2021 Cisco ISD}* will begin distributing letters to the households of the children in the district *{or service area}* about these 2022-2023 eligibility benefits and actions households need to take to apply. Applications also are available at *{Cisco ISD 1503 Leggett Cisco TX. and all campuses}*.

### Criteria for Free and Reduced-Price Meal Benefits to Start School Year 2022-2023

The following criteria will be used to determine a child's eligibility for free or reduced-price meal benefits at the beginning of School Year 2022-2023:

#### Income

1. Household income that is at or below the income eligibility levels

#### Categorical or Automatic Eligibility

2. Household receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

#### Program Participant

3. Child's status as a foster child, homeless, runaway, migrant, or displaced by a declared disaster
4. Child's enrollment in Head Start or Even Start

#### Income Eligibility

For those households that qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on income, an adult in the household must complete the free and reduced-price meal application and return it to *Lori Boyd, Child Nutrition Director 1503 Leggett*. Those individuals filling out the application will need to provide the following information:

1. Names of all household members
2. Amount, frequency, and source of current income for each household member
3. Last 4 digits of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application or, if the adult does not have a social security number, check the box for "No Social Security number"
4. Signature of an adult household member attesting that the information provided is correct

#### Categorical or Program Eligibility

*{Cisco ISD}* is working with local agencies to identify all children who are categorically and program eligible. *{Cisco ISD}* will notify the households of these children that they do not need to complete an application. Any household that does not receive a letter and feels it should have should contact *{Lori Boyd Child Nutrition Director 1503 Leggett Cisco TX 254-442-3056}*.

Any household that wishes to decline benefits should contact *{insert name, title, and contact information}*.

Applications may be submitted anytime during the school year. The information households provide on the application will be used to determine eligibility. Applications may also be verified by the school officials at any time during the school year.

#### **Determining Eligibility**

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, *{insert title and name of reviewing official}* will review applications and determine eligibility. Households or guardians dissatisfied with the Reviewing Official's eligibility determination may wish to discuss the decision with the Reviewing Official on an informal basis. Households wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to *{insert name of hearing official, title, and contact information}*.

#### **Unexpected Circumstances**

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the attached current income eligibility guidelines.

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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: <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint>, 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: (1) 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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

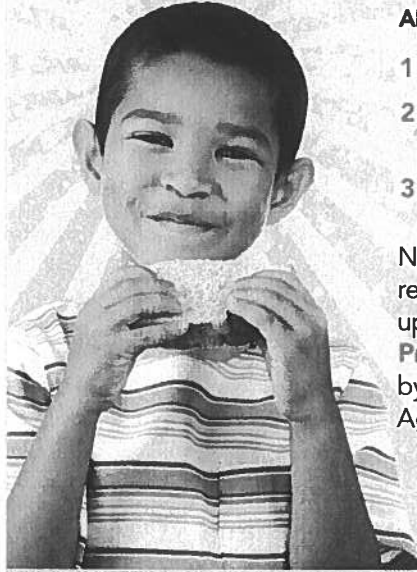
# WHEN THE SCHOOL YEAR ENDS, SUMMER MEALS BEGIN!

## Breakfast + Lunch

Our children need nutritious meals to learn, grow and thrive—even when school is out. With the **Summer Meal Programs**, children and teens ages 18 and younger, and enrolled students with disabilities up to 21 years old can continue to eat healthy throughout the summer at no cost, just by showing up at a participating meal site.

Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> through June 29, 2021

STARTING JUNE 1,  
FIND A NEARBY MEAL SITE  
AND HOURS OF OPERATION



- 1 Call 211
- 2 Text\* **FOODTX** to 877-877, or
- 3 Visit **SummerFood.org**

No form of identification is required, kids simply show up. The **Summer Meal Programs** are administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

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**VISIT SUMMERFOOD.ORG**

# HEALTHY SUMMER MEALS FOR KIDS

No Cost For Kids 18 and Younger or  
21 years old for those with Disabilities



Food and Nutrition Division  
Summer Meal Programs



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Fraud Hotline: 1-866-5-FRAUD-4 or 1-866-537-2834

\*You will only be sent information needed to find meal sites.  
Your personal information will not be shared.

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Updated 2/23/2021  
www.SquareMeals.org