



# Pierce County Schools

Post Office Box 349  
 Blackshear, Georgia 31516  
 Telephone (912) 449-2044  
 Fax (912) 449-2046

Dara Bennett  
 Superintendent  
 Duward Boatright  
 Chairman  
 Mitch Hall  
 Chip Griner  
 Kirby Malone  
 Wendy Puryear

## Special Assistance Alternative Provision 2 PUBLIC MEDIA RELEASE FOR BASE YEAR NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH/SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAMS

Children need healthy meals to learn. Pierce County High School offers healthy **Breakfast** meals every school day at no charge to your child(ren). The school district is implementing Provision 2, an alternative meal counting and claiming process. Our food service receives support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. We receive additional money for meals served to children from households with income at or below the amounts on the Income Chart. Federal support is earned for school meals and other school programs based on students' eligibility for free and reduced price meals.

**Provision 2 will not be implemented at Lunch. Meal prices will be determined by student eligibility.**

To help the school give free or reduced price meals to all children, a complete free and reduced price meal application must be submitted by each household.

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

FAMILY SIZE	COLUMN I FREE MEALS If family income is within			COLUMN II REDUCED PRICE MEALS If family income is within		
	1	0	to	17,667	17,668	to
2	0	to	23,803	23,804	to	33,874
3	0	to	29,939	29,940	to	42,606
4	0	to	36,075	36,076	to	51,338
5	0	to	42,211	42,212	to	60,070
6	0	to	48,347	48,348	to	68,802
7	0	to	54,483	54,484	to	77,534
8	0	to	60,619	60,620	to	86,266

For each additional family member, add \$6,136 per year to the income level for free meals and \$8,732 to the income level for reduced price meals.

Children are eligible for free or reduced price meals under the following:

- Children from families whose income is at or below the levels shown in the table above.
- All children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court. Families with foster children should contact the school for information regarding benefits.
- Children participating in their school's Head Start program.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant. Contact the school for information regarding benefits.

Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please send in an application.

Application forms are being sent to all homes with a letter to parents or guardians. To apply for free or reduced price meals, households should fill out the application and return it to the school. Use one Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application for all students in your household. The information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and may be verified at any time with each school district required to verify a sample annually. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year. Additional forms are available at each school.

For school officials to determine eligibility, households receiving SNAP or TANF must list the child's name, their SNAP or TANF case number, and the signature of an adult household member. Households not receiving SNAP or TANF must list child's name, names of all household members, the last four digits of the Social Security number of a parent or guardian (or an indication of no Social Security number), the amount of income received by each household member identified by source and frequency, and the signature of an adult household member certifying that the information provided is correct. An application that is not complete cannot be approved.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the parent or guardian should contact the school.

If a household does not agree with the eligibility determination, a hearing may be requested with **Dara Bennett, Superintendent** at **912-449-2044** or at **[dbennett@pierce.k12.ga.us](mailto:dbennett@pierce.k12.ga.us)**

The information provided by the household is confidential and will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and verifying data. We may inform officials connected with other child nutrition, health, and education programs of the information on your form to determine benefits for those programs or for funding and/or evaluation purposes.

For questions or additional help, contact **Becky Swain, SNP Director** at **912-449-2044** or at **[beckyswain@pierce.k12.ga.us](mailto:beckyswain@pierce.k12.ga.us)**

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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 an adult household member. 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) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program 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.

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**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, 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).

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