



UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Home of the Golden Knights and Damsels"

354 Baker Street
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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Professional Staff, Support Staff, Administration, Transportation Staff & Homeless/Foster Care Providers/Agencies

FROM: Jean M. McCleary
Superintendent & Homeless Liaison/Foster Care Point of Contact

DATE: October 5, 2018

SUBJECT: **FREE AND REDUCED MEALS FOR HOMELESS FOSTER CARE STUDENTS**

Categorical Eligibility of Homeless and Foster Care Students for Free Meal Benefits

- Children identified as **runaway, homeless, migrant or in foster care placement** are categorically eligible for free meals in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. Our school district participates in both the breakfast and lunch programs; therefore, they receive both. All children in our district receive free breakfast regardless of homelessness due to our distressed area.
- The definition of homeless children is the same one used in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; that means that children living in doubled-up situations are eligible. The host household's income is not a factor in this eligibility.
- Eligible children may be directly certified based on a list provided by an appropriate person such as the District's homeless liaison, a local shelter director, or a runaway and homeless youth service provider.
- Documentation of free meal eligibility must consist of the child's name (or a list of names), the effective date(s) and the person's signature. **No application is required. The law's intent is to expedite the process and provide meals as quickly as possible.**
- If there is a delay in receiving necessary information from the liaison or provider, the school should determine who best knows the child's situation and have that person provide the documentation stated above.
- A homeless child or foster care child who is declared eligible for free meals remains eligible for the rest of the school year even if homeless or foster care status changes. Thus no tracking is necessary.

Contact Mrs. Jean McCleary, Union School District Homeless Liaison, with any questions or concerns you may have at (814)-473-6311 x0, email at mcclaryjm@unionsd.net