



**2013-2014**  
**FREE & REDUCED-PRICE MEAL**  
**APPLICATION PACKET**  
SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
FOOD SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
6735 GIFFORD WAY  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92111  
PHONE (858) 627-7328

**APPLY ONLINE [WWW.SANDI.NET](http://WWW.SANDI.NET) Select School Meal Info/Application**

**Dear Parent or Guardian:**

San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) takes part in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. Meals are served every school day. Elementary school students may buy a lunch for \$2.00. Middle, Junior High and Senior High school students may buy a lunch for \$2.50. Breakfast may be purchased for \$1.00 in schools that offer breakfast. Extra milk may be purchased for \$.50 cents.

If your total household income is the same or less than the amounts on the enclosed income scale, your child may receive free meals; SDUSD does not charge students approved for reduced-price meals. If any household member receives CalFresh (also known as SNAP or Food Stamps), California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKS), Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payments (Kin-GAP), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) benefits, your child may receive free meals. A foster care child who is the legal responsibility of the welfare agency or ward of the court is eligible to receive meals free regardless of your income.

**How to Apply for Meal Benefits:** Complete the meal application on-line at [www.sandi.net](http://www.sandi.net) and select School Meal Info/Application or complete the attached meal application. Households will only complete one (1) meal application. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. If you are completing the paper meal application, return the original form to the school office, cafeteria, or mail it to Food Services at the address listed above. Student meal benefits will begin when a complete meal application has been processed at the Food Services Central office and communicated electronically to the school cafeteria. All households applying for meal benefits will be notified of eligibility determination by a letter sent via U.S. Mail to the home address on file in the school information system.

Meal applications can be completed at any time throughout the school year; you must apply each school year for household meal benefits. If you are not eligible now but your income goes down, you lose your job, your family size becomes larger, or you become eligible for CalFresh, CalWORKS, Kin-GAP, or FDPIR benefits, you may submit an application at that time.

**Household Definition:** Household means a group of related or non-related individuals who are living as one economic unit and sharing living expenses. Living expenses include rent, clothes, food, doctor bills, and utility bills.

**Foster Children:** Foster Children whose care and placement is the responsibility of the State or who is placed by a court with a caretaker household, are eligible for free meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for free meals regardless of income. **Note:** Foster children are no longer considered a household of one and can be listed as a household member along with non-foster children in the household. Please see the attached instructions.

**Homeless, Runaway, and Migrant Children:** Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant qualify for free meals. If you haven't been notified that your child will get free meals, please contact the school office to see if they qualify.

**WIC Participants:** If you currently receive benefits under the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children-better known as the WIC Program your child may be eligible for free meals. You are encouraged to complete an application.

**Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR):** Households participating in the FDPIR are categorically eligible for free meals or milk. The FDPIR is authorized by Section 4(b) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977. Under this section, eligible households may elect to participate in either CalFresh or the FDPIR. Since households are afforded the option to participate in either program, FDPIR households have been determined to receive the same categorical benefits as CalFresh households.

**Military Households:** For the purpose of determining income eligibility for Free and Reduced-Price meals; all active military households will exclude United States Armed Forces Family Supplemental Subsistence Allowance (Housing Allowance for Military Households in Privatized Housing) and combat pay when listing the military member's income on the meal application.

**Meals for Disabled:** If you believe your child needs a food substitute or texture modification because of a disability, please contact the Food Services department. A child with a disability is entitled to a special meal at no extra charge if the disability prevents the child from eating the regular meal.

**Non-discrimination:** Children who receive free or reduced-price meals must be treated in the same manner as those children who pay full price for their meals. **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, DC 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."

**Verification:** Food Service officials may check the information on the application at any time during the school year. You may be asked to send information to prove your income, or current eligibility for CalFresh, CalWORKS, Kin-GAP, or FDPIR benefits.

**Fair Hearing:** If you do not agree with Food Service's decision regarding your application or the result of verification, you may discuss it with the Food Services department. You also have the right to a fair hearing. A fair hearing may be requested by calling or writing to San Diego Unified School District Food Services – Hearing Officer, 6735 Gifford Way, San Diego, CA 92111 or calling (858) 627-7328.

**Confidentiality:** All information provided on the meal application will remain confidential and will not be shared for any purpose. Information provided is used to determine your child(ren)'s eligibility to receive free or reduced-price meals.

**Direct Certification:** SDUSD participates in Direct Certification. If your household receives CalFresh, CalWORKS, Kin-GAP, or FDPIR benefits, then 1) your child may be automatically certified to receive free meals 2) if you did not receive a direct certification letter from Food Services for your child who is in any of these programs, you must complete a meal application.