



For Immediate Release

July 17, 2023

## **Boerne ISD Free and Reduced-Price School Meals**

Families are encouraged to complete the application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals available online at <https://www.boerneisd.net/Page/11968> or return the completed paper form to any campus office.

The application will determine a child's eligibility for free and reduced-price meals and may assist in the determination of eligibility for other state or federal benefits. Only one application needs to be completed per household. Schools will notify the household of the child's eligibility. The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) administers school nutrition programs in Texas and offers an eligibility calculator at <https://squaremeals.org/Public-Resources/What-Programs-Am-I-Eligible-For>.

Decisions regarding payment for school meals are made at the national-government level, not by the school nutrition team or TDA. The dedicated staff at Boerne ISD is looking forward to serving healthy, balanced meals to students in the new school year. These meals, whether paid, free, or reduced-price, offer a good source of nutrition for children.

### **Criteria for Free and Reduced-Price Meal Benefits**

The following criteria will be used to determine a child's eligibility for free or reduced-price meal benefits:

#### **Income Eligibility**

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

#### **Categorical or Automatic Eligibility**

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

#### **Program Participant Eligibility**

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 fill out a free and reduced-price meal application and return it to any school campus or via email to the Child Nutrition Secretary, Marissa Acosta at [Marissa.acosta@boerneisd.net](mailto:Marissa.acosta@boerneisd.net). 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. (If the adult does not have a Social Security Number, please check the box titled "No Social Security Number.")
4. Signature of an adult household member attesting that the information provided is correct.

### **Categorical or Program Participant Eligibility**

Boerne ISD is working with local agencies to identify all children who are categorically and program eligible. Boerne 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, you can contact the Child Nutrition Secretary, Marissa Acosta via phone at (830)357-2165, or email at [Marissa.acosta@boerneisd.net](mailto:Marissa.acosta@boerneisd.net).

Applications may be submitted anytime during the school year. The information households provide on the application will be used for the purpose of determining 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, a District Reviewing Official will review applications and determine eligibility. Households or guardians dissatisfied with the Reviewing Official's eligibility determination may discuss the decision with the Reviewing Official on an informal basis. Households wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing may make a verbal or written request to the Chief Financial Officer via phone at (830)357-2029 or via email at [Wesley.scott@boerneisd.net](mailto:Wesley.scott@boerneisd.net).

### **Unexpected Circumstances**

If a household member becomes unemployed or the household size increases, the household should contact the Child Nutrition Department. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the current income eligibility guidelines. In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age, or disability. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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