

Free and Reduced Meal Notice

Constellation Schools: Old Brooklyn Community Elementary
Constellation Schools: Old Brooklyn Community Middle
Constellation Schools: Parma Community
Constellation Schools: Elyria Community
Constellation Schools: Lorain Community Elementary
Constellation Schools: Lorain Community Middle
Constellation Schools: Westpark Community Elementary
Constellation Schools: Westpark Community Middle
Constellation Schools: Puritas Community Elementary
Constellation Schools: Puritas Community Middle
Constellation Schools: Madison Community Elementary
Constellation Schools: Stockyard Community Elementary
Constellation Schools: Stockyard Community Middle
Constellation Schools: Westside Community School of the Arts
Constellation Schools: Collinwood Village Academy
Constellation Schools: Eastside Arts Academy

The above mentioned Constellation Schools today announced its 2015-2016 program year policy for free and reduced priced meals for students unable to pay the full price of meals served under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program. Each school office and the central office have a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

The Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines will be used for determining eligibility. Children from families whose annual income is at or below the Federal Guidelines are eligible for free and reduced price meals. Application forms are being distributed to all homes in a letter to parents or guardians. To apply for free and reduced-price benefits, households should fill out the application and return it to the school, or apply on line. Additional copies are available at the principal's office in each school. A complete application is required. Households which currently receive Special Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits (SNAP, formally known as food stamps) or Ohio Works First (OWF) funds for a child must provide the child's name, the SNAP or OWF case number and signature of an adult household member on the application. Households which do not receive SNAP or OWF funds must provide the names of all household members, the last four digits of the Social Security Number of the adult signing the application or state "none" if the adult does not have a Social Security Number, the amount and source of income received by each household member, (state the monthly income) and the signature of an adult household member. If any of this information is missing, the school cannot process the application.

FREE HEALTH CARE: Families with children eligible for school meals may be eligible for FREE health care coverage through Medicaid and/or Ohio's Healthy Start & Healthy Families programs. These programs include coverage for doctor visits, immunizations, physicals, prescriptions, dental, vision, mental health, substance abuse and more. Please call 1-800-324-8680 for more information or to request an application. Information can also be found on the web at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/consumers/familychild.stm>. Anyone who has an Ohio Medicaid card is already receiving these services.

The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used only for the purpose of determining eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school or other program official. To discourage the possibility of misrepresentation, the application forms contain a statement above the space for signature certifying that all information furnished is true and correct. Applications are being made in connection with the receipt of federal funds.

Schools or other officials may check the information on the application at any time during the school year. Deliberate misrepresentation of information may subject the applicant to prosecution under applicable state and federal laws.

Households will be notified of the approval or denial of benefits.

Foster children are categorically eligible for free meal benefits regardless of the household's income. If a family has foster children living with them and wishes to apply for such meals for them, contact the school for more information. Under the provision of the policy, Andrea Yurick will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent or guardian disagrees with the decision on the application or the result of verification, the decision may be discussed with the determining official on an informal basis. If a formal appeal is desired, the household has the right to a fair hearing. A fair hearing can be requested either orally or in writing to: Rebecca Keeney, 5730 Broadview Road, Parma, Ohio 44134 (216) 712-7600.

The policy contains an outline of the hearing procedure.

Households may apply for benefits any time during the school year. If a household is not currently eligible and if the household size increases or income decreases because of unemployment or other reasons, the family should contact the school to file a new application. Such changes may make the children of the family eligible for free or reduced-price benefits.

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