#### Louisa-Muscatine Community School District

#### Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Louisa-Muscatine Community School District offers healthy meals every school day. Cost for PK-6 students is \$2.60 per lunch and \$1.65 for breakfast. The cost for 7-12 students I \$2.75 for lunch and \$1.75 for breakfast. <u>Your children may qualify for free meals/milk or for reduced price meals</u>. Reduced price is **\$0.30** for breakfast and **\$0.40** for lunch. Return or mail the completed application to: Louisa-Muscatine Community School District, 14478 170<sup>th</sup> St. Letts, IA 52754

Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

- 1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?
  - All children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-formerly Food Assistance in Iowa), the Family Investment Program (FIP) or a few specific Medicaid programs are eligible for free or reduced price meals.
  - Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
  - Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
  - Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
  - Children may receive free or reduced price meals if your household's income is at or below the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines below and submit an application for free and reduced price meals/milk.

Household Size	Yearly	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	26,973	2,248	1,124	1,038	519
2	36,482	3,041	1,521	1,404	702
3	45,991	3,833	1,917	1,769	885
4	55,500	4,625	2,313	2,135	1,068
5	65,009	5,418	2,709	2,501	1,251
6	74,518	6,210	3,105	2,867	1,434
7	84,027	7,003	3,502	3,232	1,616
8	93,536	7,795	3,898	3,598	1,799
Each additional					
family member:	9,509	793	397	366	183

#### FEDERAL INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES for SCHOOL YEAR 2023-2024

- 2. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS? No, but please read the letter carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your notification, contact: Amanda Wetzel, 14478 170<sup>th</sup> St. Letts, IA 52754; (319)726-3541; awetzel@Imcsd.org immediately as eligibility for free or reduced price meals is extended to all school age children in a household. If you did not receive a letter from the school, but received a Free Lunch Notice from the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)`, submit this letter to your children's school. You may add any students living in your household who are not listed on the letter. Also, if someone in your household receives SNAP or FIP benefits and you did not receive either of these letters, you may complete an application listing the case number as this will qualify all school age children in your household for free meals. If you were informed that your children will get reduced price meals, see the income guidelines above and if you feel you would qualify for free meal benefits, complete an application for free and reduced price meals.
- 3. WHAT IF WE HAVE FOSTER CHILDREN? Households with foster and non-foster children may choose to include the foster child as a household member, as this may help other children in the household qualify for benefits. If the foster family is not eligible for free or reduced price meal benefits, that does not prevent a foster child from receiving free meal benefits.
- 4. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT OR RUNAWAY? Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven't been told your children will get free meals, please contact: Amy Lantigua;14478 170<sup>th</sup> St. Letts, IA 52754; (319)726-3541; alantigua@Imcsd.org
- 5. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No, complete the applications for free and reduced price school meals for all the students in your household. We cannot approve an application unless complete eligibility information is submitted, so be sure to complete all required information.

- 6. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? Yes, your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year, through October 4, 2023. You must complete a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. When the carryover period ends, unless you are notified that your children will receive free meals or you submit an application that is approved, the children must pay full price for school meals. The school is not required to send a reminder or a notice of expired eligibility.
- 7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC <u>may</u> be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please complete and send in an application.
- 8. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes, you, your children or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced price meals.
- 9. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes, we may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report. You are not required to provide proof with your application.
- 10. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER? Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free or reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit, if your household size goes up, or if you start getting SNAP, FIP or other benefits.
- 11. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION? You should talk to your school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Mike Van Sickle; 14478 170<sup>th</sup> St. Letts, IA 52754; (319)726-3541; mvansickle@lmcsd.org
- 12. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
- 13. WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT? Household members may not receive the types of income we ask you to report on the application, or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.
- 14. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY? Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food or clothing, or receive Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance payments, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.
- 15. DO I NEED TO PROVIDE MY SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER? Only the last four digits of the Social Security Number of the household's primary wage earner or another adult household member (or an indication of "none") is needed.
- WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY? List any additional household members on a Supplemental Worksheet and attach it to your application. Contact Amanda Wetzel, 14478 170<sup>th</sup> St. Letts, IA 52754; (319)726-3541; awetzel@Imcsd.org to receive a Supplemental Worksheet.
- 17. WHO CAN GET FREE MILK? If your school participates in the Special Milk Program for half day kindergarteners, your kindergarten child may be eligible for free milk. Children who buy extra milk with a meal or if they eat breakfast or lunch and have an afternoon milk break, are not eligible to receive free milk.
- 18. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call **1-877-347-5678**. Your children may be eligible for Hawki (children's health insurance) or a waiver of school fees. Read the information on the back of the Application for Hawki information. A school waiver form is available from your school.

- 19. CAN CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES GET FOOD SUBSTITUTIONS? If a child has a disability, as determined by a licensed medical professional, and the disability prevents the child from eating the regular school meal, the school will make substitutions prescribed by the licensed medical professional. If a substitution is needed, there will be no extra charge for the meal. Please note, however, that the school is not required to make a substitution for a food allergy, unless it meets the definition of disability. Please call the school for further information.
- DO I NEED TO REPORT MY RACE AND ETHNICITY? It is optional to complete the racial/ethnic portion of the application.
- 21. Translated applications are available at: <u>http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/translated-applications</u>.

If you have other questions or need help, call (319)726-3541; awetzel@Imcsd.org

Sincerely,

#### Linsey Reimers, Food Service Director

#### **USDA Nondiscrimination Statement:**

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <u>https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf</u>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted 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; or

- 2. fax:
- (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- 3. email:

program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

**Iowa Non-Discrimination Statement:** "It is the policy of this CNP provider not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, or religion in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code section 216.6, 216.7, and 216.9. If you have questions or grievances related to compliance with this policy by this CNP Provider, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, Grimes State Office building, 400 E. 14<sup>th</sup> St. Des Moines, IA 50319-1004; phone number 515- 281-4121, 800-457-4416; website: <a href="https://icrc.iowa.gov/">https://icrc.iowa.gov/</a>."

#### Information Statement

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 submit all needed information, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced-price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. 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), Family Investment Program (FIP) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child 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 programs rules.

## **2023-2024 Iowa Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals/Milk** Complete one application per household. Use a pen (not a pencil). **Please read How to Apply for Free and Reduced Price School Meals for more information on completing this application.**

STEP 1	List ALL Househo	ld Member	s who are i	nfants, child	ren, and	stude	nts up	grade 12 (if	more space	s are requ	ired for add	tional names, att	ach the su	pplemental worl	ksheet)
Definition of <b>Household</b> <b>Member</b> : "Anyone who is living					Date	Stu	dent			Foster Child	Homeless, Migrant,			ONAL ptional and does not ee/reduced price me	
with you and shares income and expenses, even if not	Child's First	t MI		s Last	of			Child's	Grade	Child	Runaway	Ethnicity	engionity for in	Race	ai5.
related." Children in Foster care and children who meet the definition of Homeless, Migrant	Name		Na	me	Birth	Yes	No	School	Orduc	Check a	ll that apply	H=Hispanic or Latin N=Non- Hispanic/Latino	I=Ar	A=Asian W=Whit nerican Indian/Alaska B=Black/African Ame e Hawaiian/Other Pa	an Native rican
or <b>Runaway</b> are eligible for free meals. We are required to ask															
for information about your children's race and ethnicity.															
This information is important															
and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community.															
	y Household Mem go to STEP 3. If ye											NAP, FIP or FD	PIR?		
Write only one case number in the	his space. Medica	aid and EBT	card num	bers are <u>NO</u>	T accepta	able.				Cas	e Number		- <u> </u>		
STEP 3 Report	rt Income for Al	LL Househ	nold Memb	<b>bers</b> (Skip t	-						y online:				
A. Total Number of All House	hold Members	(Children +	Adults)					ts of Socia usehold Me				xx		C. Check No SSN (adult):	
D. All Adult Household Members															f you
enter '0' or leave any fields blank, y additional names, attach the sup	ou are certifying ( plemental works	promising) tl <b>heet.</b> The so	hat there is ources of inc	no income to come for adu	report. A Its sectior	pplica <sup>:</sup> h will h	tions w elp you	u with the adu	ult income.	Report all	income in v	omplete <b>. If more</b> whole dollar amou	spaces a ints before	re required for e deductions or t	axes.
Names of All Adult Househo	old <u>Gro</u>	<u>ss</u> Earnings	s from Wor	k/All Other I	ncome				blic Assist		ld	Gro	<u>ss</u> Pensic	on/Retirement	
Members				(mark "X" in bo					How Often? (		ı box)		How C	often? (mark "X" in	box)
First and Last Names. Include children are temporarily away at school or in col		Weekly	Bi- weekly I	2x Mor Month	nthly Ye	early		Weekl	y Bi- weekly	2x Month	Monthly	N N	Veekly	Bi- 2x weekly Month	Monthly
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E. Child Income: Sometimes of include the TOTAL gross earned							Total I	ncome Rece	eived by Al	l Childre	n Wee		2x Month		Yearly
sources of income for children					me	\$									
	act Informatio								PAG	E TWO	CONTAIN	6 MORE INFO	RMATION	N	
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Annual Income Conversion	1					Neu				Appl	ication #:		Date Re	ceived:	
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Eligibility Determination	Free		🗆 Reduc	ced		Free I	Milk		Appli	cation D	enied 🗆	Incomplete	[	☐ Over Incom	e Limits

#### Low-Cost Health Insurance for Children

If your children do not have health insurance, many families getting free or reduced price meals can also get free or low-cost health insurance for their children. The law requires public schools to share vour free and reduced price meal eligibility information with Medicaid & Hawki, the State's medical insurance program for children. Private schools, RCCIs and childcare organizations may choose to share this information. Specifically, we will give them your child's name, your name & address. Medicaid & Hawki can only use the information to identify children who may be eligible for free or low-cost health insurance and contact you. They are not allowed to use the information from your free and reduced meal application for any other purpose or to share it with any other entity or program. You are not required to allow us to share this information, it will not affect your child's eligibility for free or reduced price meals. If you do NOT want your information shared with Medicaid or Hawki, you must tell us by completing the information below. If you want further information, you may call Hawki at 1-800-257-8563. Also, if you are already receiving Medicaid or Hawki, please sign below. This will avoid another contact.

My signature below indicates I DO NOT want school officials to share information from my free and reduced price meal application with Medicaid or Hawki.

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)	Signature	Date
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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 submit all needed information, we cannot approve vour child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. 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), Family Investment Program (FIP) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child 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.

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement: In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

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1. \* mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

3. email:

2

program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Translated applications are available at: http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/translated-applications

#### Waiver Information

Public Assistance/Alimony/Child Sources of Child Income All Other Income (Adult Income Sources) Earnings from Work (Adult Income Sources) Support (Adult Income Sources) • Earnings from work • Salary, wages, cash bonuses (before deductions or taxes) Cash Assistance from State/local government Social Security · Social Security(disability payments and survivor's • Net income from self-employment (farm or business) Supplemental Security Income · Disability benefits benefits) • If you are in the U.S. Military: • Unemployment benefits • Regular income from trusts or estates a. Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat · Worker's compensation Annuities Income from person outside the household pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances) · Alimony or child support payments Investment income • Income from any other source b. Allowances for off-base housing, food and clothing • Veteran's benefits Rental income Strike benefits · Regular cash payments from outside household

\*Do not mail applications

Iowa Non-Discrimination Statement: "It is the policy of this CNP provider not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, or religion in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code section 216.6, 216.7, and 216.9. If you have questions or grievances related to compliance with this policy by this CNP Provider, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission. Grimes State Office building, 400 E. 14th St. Des Moines, IA 50319-1004: phone number 515- 281-4121. 800-457-4416; website: https://icrc.iowa.gov/."

#### Return completed form to:

to this address, only complaints of discrimination.

### Optional Supplemental Worksheet 2023-2024 Iowa Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals/Milk

Additional Children in Your Household (not listed on page 1)

										-	OPTIONAL		
			Date	Stud	lent	Child's School	Grade	Foster Child	Homeles, Migrant, Runaway	Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free/reduced price meals.			
Child's First Name	мі	Child's Last Name	of							Ethnicity	Race		
			Birth	YES	NO					H=Hispanic or Latino N=Non-	A=Asian W=White I=American Indian/Alaskan Native B=Black/African American		
								Check a	l that apply	Hispanic/Latino	P=Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		

Any income earned by the above listed children should be included under Step 3 D on the first page of the application.

#### Additional Adults in Your Household (Not listed on page 1)

Names of All Adult Household Members	Gross Earnings from Work/All Other Income						<u>Gross</u> Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony						Gross Pension/Retirement				
			How Ofte	en? (mark "	X" in box)			Ho	w Often? (n	nark "X" in	box)		Ho	w Often? (n	nark "X" in	box)	
First and Last Names. Include children who are temporarily away at school or in college.		Weekly	Bi- weekly	2x Month	Monthly	Yearly		Weekly	Bi- weekly	2x Month	Monthly		Weekly	Bi- weekly	2x Month	Monthly	
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#### Self-Employment Income Calculations

#### This guidance will assist you in calculating the amount to report if you engage in farming, are self-employed or have income from other sources.

Self-employed persons may use income tax records for the preceding calendar year as a base to project the current year's net income, unless the current monthly income provides a more accurate measure. Report income derived from the business venture less operating costs incurred in the generation of that income. Deductions for personal expenses such as interest on home payments, medical expenses, and other similar non-business deductions are not allowed in reducing gross business income. Additional income from other kinds of employment must be treated as separate and apart from the income generated or lost from your business venture. For example, if you operated a business at a net loss, but held additional employment for which a salary was received, the income for purposes of applying for reduced price or free meals would be the income from the salary only. The loss from the business venture. The least income possible is zero (no income). The necessary information for arriving at allowable income from private business operation may be taken from your most recent U.S. Individual Income Tax Return - Form 1040 or 1040-SR and Schedule 1. Add together the amounts reported on the following lines: Capital Gain or (Loss) Form 1040 or 1040-SR,LINE 7

Business Income or (Loss) Schedule 1 Part 1, LINE 3	\$
Other Gains or (Losses) Schedule 1 Part 1, LINE 4	\$
Rental real estate, royalties, partnerships, S corporations, trusts, etc. Schedule 1 Part 1, LINE 5	\$
Farm Income or (Loss) Schedule 1 Part 1, LINE 6	\$

TOTAL \$\_\_\_\_\_Gross Annual Income Before Any Deductions. Report in Step 3 under All Other Income (Computed Monthly Income \$\_\_\_\_Gross Annual Income ÷ 12)



Superintendent Mike Van Sickle mvansickle@Imcsd.org

Director of Instruction Amy Lantigua alantigua@Imcsd.org

Business Manager Charles Domer cdomer@Imcsd.org

Junior High/High School Principal Chris Parkhurst cparkhurst@Imcsd.org

Elementary Principal Aimee Wedeking awedeking@Imcsd.org

Activities Director Ken Spielbauer kspielbauer@Imcsd.org

Web site: http://www.lmcsd.org

## Louisa-Muscatine Community School District

## We Value, We Challenge, We Prepare each and every student.

### WAIVER STATEMENT

If your child(ren) qualifies for free or reduced price meals, you may also be eligible for other benefits. If you sign this waiver, your child(ren) will be considered for a full or partial waiver of school fees.

I understand that I will be releasing information that will show that I applied for free and reduced price school meals for my child(ren). I give up my rights to confidentiality for waiver of school fees ONLY.

I certify that I am the parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_

(List all children for whom application is being made.)

Parent/Guardian

Date

# YOU DO NOT HAVE TO COMPLETE THIS WAIVER TO GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS.

**Central Office** 14478 170<sup>th</sup> Street Letts, Iowa 52754 319.726.3541 Fax: 319.726.3334 Jr/Sr High School 14354 170<sup>th</sup> Street Letts, Iowa 52754 319.726.3421 Fax: 319.726.3649 Elementary School 14506 170<sup>th</sup> Street Letts, Iowa 52754 319.726.3634 Fax: 319.726.4600

It is the policy of Louisa-Muscatine CSD not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, gender, disability, religion, age, political party affiliation, socioeconomic status, or actual or potential parental, family or marital status in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code.