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INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES ANNOUNCED FOR SCHOOL LUNCH, OTHER NUTRITION PROGRAMS

The Nebraska Department of Education's Nutrition Services office has announced the Income Eligibility Guidelines for free and reduced price meals for persons unable to pay the full price of meals served under the National School Lunch, Breakfast, Special Milk and Child and Adult Care Food Programs.

Participating schools, child care and adult care centers have a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

Application forms are given to all households with a letter to parents, guardians or adult participants. To apply for free or reduced price meals, households should fill out the application and return it to the school or agency. Additional copies are available from school principals or agency administrator. Information provided on the application will be used to determine eligibility and may be verified at any time during the year by school or other program officials.

For school or agency officials to determine eligibility, the household must provide the following information on the application: names of all household members; social security numbers of an adult household member or a statement that the household member does not have one; total monthly household income by source; and the signature of an adult household member certifying that the information provided is correct. Children who are members of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) assistance units or Food Stamp or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) households are automatically eligible to receive free meals. Participants at adult care centers receiving Food Stamps, FDPIR, SSI or Medicaid are automatically eligible to receive free meals.

Applications may be submitted at any time during the year.

The same meals will be made available to all enrolled participants regardless of race, color, sex, age, national origin or disability, and there is no discrimination in the course of the meal service. Nonpricing programs provide meals at no separate charge. Pricing programs provide free and reduced price meals to those meeting the approved eligibility criteria. Persons who believe they have been treated unfairly in

receiving food services for any of these reasons should write immediately to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

The following household size and income criteria will be used for determining eligibility. Participants from families whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced price meals.

NOTE TO MEDIA: A list of the participating schools and agencies, by county, is available on the Nutrition Services web site at: http://www.nde.state.ne.us/NS/participants_2008.pdf

NUTRITION SERVICES INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINE
JULY 1, 2008 - JUNE 30, 2009

Household Size	Free Meals			Reduced Price Meals		
	Annual	Monthly	Weekly	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
1	13,520	1,127	260	19,240	1,604	370
2	18,200	1,517	350	25,900	2,159	499
3	22,880	1,907	440	32,560	2,714	627
4	27,560	2,297	530	39,220	3,269	755
5	32,240	2,687	620	45,880	3,824	883
6	36,920	3,077	710	52,540	4,379	1,011
7	41,600	3,467	800	59,200	4,934	1,139
8	46,280	3,857	890	65,860	5,489	1,267
For each additional family member add:	4,680	390	90	6,660	555	129