

## **Introduction**

The Child Nutrition Department of the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System includes all of the district's 36 cafeterias. Breakfast and lunch are served in all schools each full school day, including early release days.

### **-How does power school impact my child's meals?**

*Each student is assigned a POWER School ID number by the district. This POWER School ID number identifies individual student accounts for recording cafeteria purchases and payments. Each student's eligibility status whether free, reduced or full pay is discreetly programmed into their account. Older students may key in their own ID number on numeric pads, however younger students will often recite their ID number to the cashier or will carry reminders of their ID numbers to the cafeteria. It is helpful in speeding up service in the cafeteria if students memorize their POWER School ID. If you need information on your student's POWER School ID, please contact your school or the CMCSS Website.*

### **-Where can I deposit money or check the balance of my child's account?**

*\*Preferred Method:*

[www.parentonline.net](http://www.parentonline.net)

Toll Free Number: 866-442-6030

*Alternate Method:*

*Your child's school cafeteria can take cash or check deposits and give you your child's account balance.*

### **-How do I apply for free or reduced priced meals, and where do I get an application?**

*Family application instructions for Free and Reduced Priced Meals are sent home with each student at the beginning of the school year and given to new enrollees for families that wish to apply. **Please note: All students must be provided with directions for completion of an online or paper application at the beginning of the year, however, it is not required that every student fill out an application.***

### **-Where can I fill out an online application?**

Simply go to <https://mealapp.cmcoss.net> to get started

**-If I fill out an online application must I also fill out a paper application?**

*No. One application in either online or paper version will be sufficient.*

**-Who can get free meals, and who can get reduced price meals?**

*Students may qualify for free or reduced meals based on federal policies and guidelines set by the USDA.*

*All children in households receiving SNAP are eligible for free meals regardless of income. A SNAP case number must be included with the application. Also, your children are eligible for free meals if your household's gross income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.*

*Your child may be eligible for reduced price meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Eligibility Income Chart*

**-What must be included on an application in order for it to be processed?**

*(Only one application is required per family.)*

*A complete application must provide:*

\*Names of ALL household members

\*Address

\*Amount, source, and frequency of the current income for each member of the household

***-For all members of the household that do not bring in an income, the "no income" box must be checked. (This includes any children that are listed and do not bring in an income.)***

\*Signature of an adult household member

\*The last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application or an indication that the household member does not have one

*Applications are available at any of the 36 schools or at the Central Office (621 Gracey Avenue).*

**-Will the information I give be checked?**

*Yes, and we may also ask you to send written proof.*

**-What happens to my child's status from the previous year?**

*If a student was either free or reduced last year, the same status will carry over for the next school year, not to exceed 30 operating days.*

**-How long does the status last?**

*Once an application has been processed, the status of that application will stay the same for the entire school year; a new application may be filled out at any time if the income or eligibility status has changed.*

*A student's free or reduced status will carry over into any school in the district. This includes a student that changes schools. In this situation the student does not need to fill out a new application.*

**-What if my child is new to CMCSS but is already free or reduced from another district in TN or another state?**

*The parent/guardian must contact the CMCSS Child Nutrition Free and Reduced Coordinator or fill out a new application. The child's status will not automatically transfer.*

**-Direct Certification**

*There are two ways to be classified as a direct certification:*

*Through participation in the Assistance Programs **SNAP** or **TANF** (a child or any member of the household receives benefits from either **SNAP** or **TANF** as determined either through the state or an application with the appropriate case numbers); or*

*Through other categorically eligible source designation such as-homeless, runaway, migrant, foster child, federal head start or state funded head start.*

**-I get WIC. Can my child/children get free meals?**

*Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please fill out an application.*

**-Foster Children**

*A foster child is a child whose care and placement is the responsibility of the State or formally placed by a court with a caretaker household. A foster child is automatically eligible for free meals once proper documentation has been shown.*

*A foster child application must include:*

- \*Name of the foster child*
- \*Checked box indicating a child's foster care status*
- \*Signature of an adult household member*
- \*Proper documentation showing foster care status*

**-Would I qualify if I receive SNAP?**

*SNAP*

*A child that receives food stamp assistance is automatically eligible for free breakfast and lunch.*

*When a SNAP case number is included on an application, all children on that application are eligible for free meals.*

*We must have the proper case number on the application in order to process the application as a snap application*

**-Do I qualify if I am homeless?**

*Homeless*

*As long as we have "PROPER DOCUMENTATION" that a child is homeless, we do not need an application*

**-Deployed Service Personnel**

*Any member of the armed services who is active or deployed in support of any military combat operation is counted as a household member. Any money made available by them or on their behalf for the household is counted as income to the family, with the **exception** of combat pay.*

**-Alimony and Child Support**

*Any money **received** by a household in the form of alimony or child support is considered income to the receiving household*

*Any income **paid** by a household in the form of alimony or child support is not excluded from income for that household*