

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 5, 2009

## Media Release for Free and Reduced-Price Meals

Kyrene School District today announced its continuing policy for providing free and reduced-price meals for children served under the National School Lunch Program. Each school and/or the central office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

The household size and income criteria identified below will be used to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits. Children from households whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Children who are members of Food Stamp households, Cash Assistance (CA) units or Food Distribution Program on the Indian Reservation (FDPIR) households are automatically eligible for free meals. Food Stamp/CA families will be certified by the determining official via Direct Certification. Foster children that are the legal responsibility of a welfare agency or court may also be eligible for benefits regardless of the income of the household with whom they reside. Eligibility for the foster child is based on the child's income.

FREE				REDUCED			
Family Size:	*Year	**Month	**Week	Family Size:	*Year	**Month	**Week
1	\$13,520	1,127	260	1	\$19,240	1,604	370
2	18,200	1,517	350	2	25,900	2,159	499
3	22,880	1,907	440	3	32,560	2,714	627
4	27,560	2,297	530	4	39,220	3,269	755
5	32,240	2,687	620	5	45,880	3,824	883
6	36,920	3,077	710	6	52,540	4,379	1,011
7	41,600	3,467	800	7	59,200	4,934	1,139
8	46,280	3,857	890	8	65,860	5,489	1,267
Each Additional Member Add:	+4,680	+390	+90	Each Additional Member Add:	+6,660	+555	+129

Application forms are distributed to all households with a letter informing households of the availability of free and reduced-price meals for their children at the beginning of each school year. Applications also are available at anytime in each school office. To apply for free or reduced-price meals, households must fill out the application and return it to the school office. Food Stamp/CA families do not need to fill out an application because they are automatically certified by the determining official via Direct Certification. The information that households provide on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and verification of data. Applications may be verified at any time during the school year by school or other program officials.

For school officials to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits, households receiving FDPIR only have to list their child's name, FDPIR case number; an adult household member must sign the application. Households which do not list an FDPIR case number must list the names of all household members, the amount and source of monthly income received by each household member, and the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. If the household member signing does not have a social security number, he/she must indicate that a social security number is not available. An adult household member must sign the application.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price policy, Terry Tatterfield, Assistant Superintendent, will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the official may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to Terry Tatterfield, Assistant Superintendent, 8700 S. Kyrene Road, Tempe, AZ 85284).

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the levels shown above.

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