

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Hale Area Schools** offers healthy meals every school day. Students may buy lunch at the K-4 level for \$1.35, at the 5-12 level for \$1.60 and this school year breakfast is FREE. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced priced meals. We sell reduced price lunches for \$.40. If a doctor has determined that your child has a disability, and the disability would prevent the child from eating the regular school meal, the school will make any substitution prescribed by a licensed physician at no extra charge. For further information, please call **Rhonda Brindley at 728-5752**. The physician's statement, including prescribed diet and/or substitution, must be submitted to the food service department at your school.

1. **Do I need to fill out an application for each child?** No. Complete the application to apply for free and reduced price school meals. Use one Free and Reduced Price School Meals Family Application for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: **Mrs. Rhonda Brindley, 311 N. Washington, Hale MI 48739**.
2. **Who can get free meals?** Children in households getting Food Assistance Program (FAP), Family Independence Program (FIP), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) and most foster children can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines.
3. **Can homeless, runaway, and migrant children get free meals?** Please call **Mr. Vince LaCavera at 728-3551**, homeless liaison or migrant coordinator to see if your child(ren) qualify if you have not been informed that they will get free meals.
4. **Who can get reduced price meals?** Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Income Guidelines Chart shown on the application instructions.
5. **Should I fill out an application if I got a letter this school year saying my children are approved for free or reduced price meals?** Please read the letter you got carefully and follow any instructions if provided. Call the school at **728-5752** if you have any questions.
6. **I get WIC. Can my child(ren) get free meals?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. An application must be filled out by WIC households.
7. **Will the information I give be checked?** Yes, we may ask for you to send written proof of any information provided on the application.
8. **If I don't qualify now, may I apply later?** Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start getting FAP, FIP, FDPIR, or other benefits. If you lose your job, your children may be able to get free or reduced price meals.
9. **What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application?** You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by writing to: **Mrs. Rhonda Provoast, Superintendent, 200 W. Main, Hale MI 48739 or by calling 728-7661**.
10. **May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen?** Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced price meals.
11. **Who should I include as members of my household?** You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relative, or friends), including yourself and all children who live with you.
12. **What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount that you normally get. For example, if you normally get \$1,000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get it only sometimes.
13. **We are in the military. Do we include our housing allowance as income?** If your housing allowance is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. All other allowances must be included in your gross income.
14. **What if my child does not have health insurance?** Your children may qualify for low cost or free health insurance through MIChild and Healthy Kids Program. To apply online, go to [www.michigan.gov/michild](http://www.michigan.gov/michild) or call **1-888-988-6300** for help or to request a paper application.

Sincerely,  
Rhonda Brindley, Food Service Supervisor, Hale Area Schools