

PUBLIC RELEASE - AUGUST 2011

Regional School District No. 7 today announced its policy for determining eligibility of children who may receive free or reduced price meals served under the National School Lunch.

Local school officials have adopted the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Income Eligibility Guidelines following family size and income criteria for determining eligibility.

The following income guidelines will be used in Connecticut from **July 1, 2011** to **June 30, 2012** for determining eligibility of participants for free and reduced price meals and free milk in the Child Nutrition Programs.

FREE MEALS/MILK

REDUCED PRICE MEALS

Number in Family	Annual Gross Income	Monthly Gross Income	Every Two Weeks Gross Income	Weekly Gross Income	Number in Family	Annual Gross Income	Monthly Gross Income	Every Two Weeks Gross Income	Weekly Gross Income
1	14,157	1,180	545	273	1	20,147	1,679	775	388
2	19,123	1,594	736	368	2	27,214	2,268	1,047	524
3	24,089	2,008	927	464	3	34,281	2,857	1,319	660
4	29,055	2,422	1,118	559	4	41,348	3,446	1,591	796
5	34,021	2,836	1,309	655	5	48,415	4,035	1,863	932
6	38,987	3,249	1,500	750	6	55,482	4,624	2,134	1,067
7	43,953	3,663	1,691	846	7	62,549	5,213	2,406	1,203
8	48,919	4,077	1,882	941	8	69,616	5,802	2,678	1,339
Each Add'l Family Member	+4,966	+ 414	+ 191	+96	Each Add'l Family Member	+ 7,067	+ 589	+ 272	+ 136

To determine annual income:

If income is received:

Multiply by:

Weekly

52

Every Two Weeks

26

Monthly

12

If income is reported as *twice per month*, convert to annual income.

Children from families whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced price meals.

Application forms are being sent to all homes with a letter to parents or can be obtained on the school website: nwr7.com.

To apply for free or reduced price meals, households should fill out the application and return it to the school. Additional copies are available at the House I office in the high school and the principal's office in the middle school. The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used only for the purposes of determining eligibility, and may be verified at any time during the school year by school or other program officials. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year. Application forms for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly known as Food Stamps) or Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) households require the child's name, the child's SNAP/TFA case number and the signature of an adult household member. Households receiving assistance under the SNAP/TFA programs will be notified of their eligibility and their children will be provided free benefits unless the household notifies the school that it chooses to decline benefits. Households receiving SNAP benefits or TFA for their children should only submit an application if they are not notified of their eligibility by September 1, 2011. Households receiving SNAP benefits or TFA for their children may receive a direct certification letter from the Department of Social Services. These letters will automatically qualify a child for free meals and may be submitted instead of an application to the school. Application forms for all other households require a statement of total household income, household size and names of all household members. The social security number of an adult household member must be included or a statement that the household member does not possess one. The adult household member must also sign the application certifying that the information provided is correct. In certain cases, foster children are also eligible for these benefits. If a family has a foster child living with them who is a **legal ward** of the State of Connecticut, that child is considered a family of one, and monthly personal income from the State must be reported.

Under the provisions of the policy for determining eligibility for free and reduced price meals, Ms. Claudia Mossman, Housemaster, House I, Northwestern Regional High School, will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with the ruling of the determining official, he/she may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis.

If he/she wishes to make a formal appeal, a request either orally or in writing, may be made to Dr. Judith A. Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, Regional School District No. 7, Post Office Box 656, Winsted, Connecticut 06098-0656; Phone: 860-379-1084, for a hearing to appeal the decision.

The policy contains an outline of the hearing procedure. Each school and the central office of the school district has a copy of the policy which may be reviewed by an interested party.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if household size changes at any time, the family should contact the school to file a new application. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for reduced price meals, free meals, if the family income falls at or below the levels shown above.

This is the Public Release we will send on August 9, 2011 to the following news media outlets,
the local unemployment office, major employers contemplating layoffs, etc.

1. Unemployment Service – Torrington, CT
 2. The Republican-American – Torrington, CT
 3. The Register Citizen Newspaper, Torrington, CT
 4. Website: nwr7.com
-
-

"In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the federal relay service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."