**Should families still apply for free and reduced meals?**

During the 2021-22 school year, breakfast and lunch is available to all students at no cost each school day, regardless of income eligibility. Families may still complete the free and reduced lunch application each school year to determine their income eligibility, as some community programs use this information to determine benefits, such as a waiver in fee. An application is not needed if your household has already received a letter from the Child Nutrition office this school year regarding direct certification of free and reduced eligibility.

* The Child Nutrition Department will process meal applications and determine eligibility status for families. Whether a family is approved or not, they will still have access to free meals this 2021-22 school year.
* After an application is processed a letter will be mailed to the household verifying the outcome, either approved or denied. Families approved for free and reduced income eligibility should maintain this letter, as some organizations may request this to verify a waiver of fee.
* To further clarify, students will eat breakfast and lunch free regardless of the meal application. Families who feel they meet income eligibility for economically disadvantaged should apply for free and reduced meals as they will need this documentaion when seeking benefits from other programs (i.e. internet service, athletic fees etc.)