Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Smith-Green Community Schools offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.30 (Elem) \$1.50 (Jr/Sr); lunch costs \$2.05 (Elem), \$2.25 (Jr/Sr hot meal), and \$2.75 (Jr/Sr alternate meal). Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is \$.00 for breakfast and \$.40 for lunch. This packet includes an application for free or reduced price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from SNAP (Food Stamps) or TANF, are eligible for free meals.
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- Children may receive free or reduced price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 2016-17					
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly		
1	21,978	1,832	423		
2	29,637	2,470	570		
3	37,296	3,108	718		
4	44,955	3,747	865		
5	52,614	4,385	1,012		
6	60,273	5,023	1,160		
7	67,951	5,663	1,307		
8	75,647	6,304	1,455		
Each additional	+7,696	+642	+148		

- 2. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY? Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call Smith-Green Community Schools Admin. Office at 260-693-2007.
- 3. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. Use one Free and Reduced Price School Meals 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: **Smith-Green Community Schools, Atten: Elise Roth, 1 Eagle Drive, Churubusco, IN. 46723**.
- 4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? No, but please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact Elise Roth, 1 Eagle Drive, Churubusco, IN. 46723 or email rothe@sgcs.k12.in.us or call 260-693-1565 immediately.
- 5. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? Yes! You are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application if you are able. The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit **LunchApp.com** to begin or to learn more about the online application process. Contact **Elise Roth at 260-693-1565** if you have any questions about the online application.

- 6. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year through **Sept. 22, 2016**. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not send in a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price of meals.
- 7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please send in an application.
- 8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
- 9. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER? Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
- 10. 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 calling or writing to: **Galen Mast, 222 W. Tulley St. Churubusco, IN. 46723 or phone 260-693-2007**.
- 11. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced price meals.
- 12. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
- 13. WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT? Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application, or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.
- 14. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY? Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.
- 15. WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY? List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper, and attach it to your application. Contact **Smith-Green Community School Admin. Office at 260-693-2007** to receive a second application.
- 16. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for SNAP (Food Stamp) or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call **1-800-403-0864**.

If you have other questions or need help, call 260-693-2007.

Sincerely,

Elise Roth / SGCS Food Service Director

HOW TO APPLY FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Please use these instructions to help you fill out the application for free or reduced price school meals. You only need to submit one application per household, even if your children attend more than one school in this district. The application must be filled out completely to certify your children for free or reduced price school meals. Please follow these instructions in order! Each step of the instructions is the same as the steps on your application. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please contact Elise Roth at 260-693-1565 or email rothe@sgcs.k12.in.us.

PLEASE USE A PEN (NOT A PENCIL) WHEN FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION AND DO YOUR BEST TO PRINT CLEARLY.

STEP 1: LIST ALL INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND STUDENTS UP TO AND INCLUDING GRADE 12 IN THE HOUSEHOLD

Tell us how many infants, children, and school students live in your household. They do NOT have to be related to you to be a part of your household.

Who should I list here? When filling out this section, please include ALL members in your household who are:

- Children age 18 or under AND are supported with the household's income;
- In your care under a foster arrangement, or qualify as homeless, migrant, or runaway youth;
- Students attending Smith-Green Community Schools, regardless of age.

A) List each child's name. Print each child's name. Use one line of the application for each child. If there are more children present than lines on the application, attach a second piece of paper with all required information for the additional children.

B) Is the child a student at Smith-Green Community Schools Mark 'Yes' or 'No' under the column titled "Student" to tell us which children attend Smith-Green Community Schools If you marked 'Yes,' write the name of the school building, birthdate, and grade level of the student in the 'Grade' column to the right. Is the child living with parent or caretaker relative? Mark 'Yes' or 'No' next to each child.

C) Do you have any foster children? If any children listed are foster children, mark the "Foster Child" box next to the child's name. If you are ONLY applying for foster children, after finishing **STEP 1**, go to **STEP 4**.

Foster children who live with you may count as members of your household and should be listed on your application. If you are applying for both foster and non-foster children, go to step 3.

D) Are any children homeless, migrant, or runaway? If you believe any child listed in this section meets this description, mark the "Homeless, Migrant, Runaway" box next to the child's name and complete all steps of the application.

STEP 2: DO ANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN SNAP or TANF?

If anyone in your household (including you) currently participates in one or more of the assistance programs listed below, your children are eligible for free school meals:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

A) If no one in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:

Leave STEP 2 blank and go to STEP 3.

- B) If anyone in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:
- Write a case number for SNAP or TANF. You only need to provide one case number. If you participate in one of these programs and do not know your case number, contact: 1-800-403-0864.
- Go to STEP 4.

STEP 3: REPORT INCOME FOR ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

How do I report my income?

• Use the charts titled "Sources of Income for Adults" and "Sources of Income for Children," located on the back side of this page to determine if your household has income to report.

Sources of Ir	ncome for Children
Sources of Child Income	Example(s)
- Earnings from work	- A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages
- Social Security - Disability Payments - Survivor's Benefits	A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits A Parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits
-Income from person outside the household	- A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money
-Income from any other source	- A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust

Sources of Income for Adults						
Earnings from Work	Public Assistance / Alimony / Child Support	Pensions / Retirement / All Other Income				
Salary, wages, cash bonuses Net income from self- employment (farm or business) If you are in the U.S. Military: Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances) Allowances for off-base housing, food and clothing	Unemployment benefits - Worker's compensation Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Cash assistance from State or local government Alimony payments - Child support payments - Veteran's benefits - Strike benefits	Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits) Private pensions or disability benefits Regular income from trusts or estates Annuities Investment income Earned interest Regular cash payments from outside household				

- Report all amounts in GROSS INCOME ONLY. Report all income in whole dollars. Do not include cents.
 - Gross income is the total income received before taxes
 - o Many people think of income as the amount they "take home" and not the total, "gross" amount. Make sure that the income you report on this application has NOT been reduced to pay for taxes, insurance premiums, or any other amounts taken from your pay.
- Write a "0" in any fields where there is no income to report. Any income fields left empty or blank will also be counted as a zero. If you write '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. If local officials suspect that your household income was reported incorrectly, your application will be investigated.
- Mark how often each type of income is received using the check boxes to the right of each field.

3.A. REPORT INCOME EARNED BY CHILDREN

A) Report all income earned or received by children. Report the combined gross income for ALL children listed in STEP 1 in your household in the box marked "Child Income." Only count foster children's income if you are applying for them together with the rest of your household.

What is Child Income? Child income is money received from outside your household that is paid DIRECTLY to your children. Many households do not have any child income.

3.B REPORT INCOME EARNED BY ADULTS

Who should I list here?

- When filling out this section, please include ALL adult members in your household who are living with you and share income and expenses, even if they are not related and even if they do not receive income of their own.
- Do NOT include:
- o People who live with you but are not supported by your household's income AND do not contribute income to your household.
- Infants, Children and students already listed in STEP 1.

B) List adult household members'
names. Print the name of each
household member in the boxes marked
"Names of Adult Household Members
(First and Last)." Do not list any
household members you listed in STEP
1. If a child listed in STEP 1 has income,
follow the instructions in \ensuremath{STEP} 3, part A.

C) Report earnings from work. Report all income from work in the "Earnings from Work" field on the application. This is usually the money received from working at jobs. If you are a self-employed business or farm owner, you will report your net income.

What if I am self-employed? Report income from that work as a net amount. This is calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of your business from its gross receipts or revenue.

D) Report income from public assistance/child support/alimony. Report all income that applies in the "Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony" field on the application. Do not report the cash value of any public assistance benefits NOT listed on the chart. If income is received from child support or alimony, only report court-ordered payments. Informal but regular payments should be reported as "other" income in the next part.

E) Report income from pensions/retirement/all other income. Report all income that applies in the "Pensions/Retirement/ All Other Income" field on the application.

F) Report total household size. Enter the total number of household members in the field "Total Household Members (Children and Adults)." This number MUST be equal to the number of household members listed in **STEP 1** and **STEP 3**. If there are any members of your household that you have not listed on the application, go back and add them. It is very important to list all household members, as the size of your household affects your eligibility for free and reduced price meals.

G) Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number. An adult household member must enter the last four digits of their Social Security Number in the space provided. You are eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social Security Number. If no adult household members have a Social Security Number, leave this space blank and mark the box to the right labeled "Check if no SSN."

STEP 4: CONTACT INFORMATION AND ADULT SIGNATURE

All applications must be signed by an adult member of the household. By signing the application, that household member is promising that all information has been truthfully and completely reported. Before completing this section, please also make sure you have read the privacy and civil rights statements on the back of the application.

A) Provide your contact information. Write your current address in the fields provided if this information is available. If you have no permanent address, this does not make your children ineligible for free or reduced price school meals. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.

B) Print and sign your name. Print the name of the adult signing the application and that person signs in the box "Signature of adult."

C) Write today's date. In the space provided, write today's date in the box.

D) Share children's racial and ethnic identities (optional). On the back of the application, we ask you to share information about your children's race and ethnicity. This field is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price school meals.

STEP 5: OTHER BENEFITS - OPTIONAL

The following sections are optional and do not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price school meals.

A) Textbook Assistance

If you want to receive textbook assistance, check 'Yes' and then read, sign, and date the section to the right. If you do not want to receive textbook assistance, check 'No'.

B) Hoosier Healthwise Disclosure

If you want to share your child's free/reduced eligibility in order to qualify for free or low-cost health insurance under Medicaid or Hoosier Healthwise, sign and date this section.

Smith-Green Community Schools 2016-2017 Household Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil).

Prescribed by State Board of Accounts School Form No. 521/2016

STEP1 List AL	L infants, children, and students up to	grac	de 12 who are members of your househo	old (if mo	ore spa	ces are required for addition	al names, attach	anothe	r sheet of	pape	er)	
Definition of Household	Child's First Name	МІ	Child's Last Name	Stud Yes	dent? No	Only Students: Name of School Building	Only Students: Only St Birthdate Gra	udents: careta	with parent or aker relative? s No		Foster	Homeless Migrant, Runaway
Member: "Anyone who is living with you and shares	1											
income and expenses, even if not related." Children in Foster care	2									t apply		
and children who meet the definition of Homeless , Migrant or Runaway are	3									ck all that appl		
eligible for free meals. Read How to Apply for Free and	4									Ç.		
Reduced Price School Meals for more information.	5											
STEP 2 Do any H	lousehold Members (including you) c	urrei	ntly participate in one or more of the foll	lowing	assist	ance programs: SNAP (Food Stamp) o	or TANI	F?			
	If NO > Go to STEP 3.	lf	YES > Write a case number here then go to STEP	9 4 (Do no	ot compl	ete STEP 3)	Case Number:	1 1	1 1 1	/ /	1 1	1
								Write only	one case n	umber ir	n this s	pace.
STEP 3 Report	Income for ALL Household Member	ers (S	Skip this step if you answered 'Yes' to STEP 2	2)								
Please read How to Apply for Free and Reduced Price School Meals for more information. The Sources of Income for Children section will help you with the Child Income question. The Sources of Income for Adults section will help you with the All Adult Household Members section.	in household listed in STEP 1 here. B. All Adult Household Members (ind List all Household Members not listed in STEP	cludi P1 (inc ach sc \$ \$ \$ \$ L	re income. Please include the TOTAL income receive ing yourself) Cluding yourself) even if they do not receive income receive in whole dollars (no cents) only. If they do not receive in whole dollars (no cents) only. If t	e. For eac ecceive inc Public A: Child Su \$	ch House come from ssistance/ ipport/Alim	shold Member listed, if they do remany source, write '0'. If you en	er '0' or leave any Pensions/Re	ort total fields blan stirement/	(gross)	e certify	ying n?	1 Month
	ct information and adult signature						page for Text					
	ation on this application is true and that all income is reportly lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under appli		understand that this information is given in connection with the state and Federal laws."	e receipt o	f Federal	funds, and that school officials may v	erify (check) the infor	mation. I ar	n aware tha	t if I pur	rposely	give
Street Address (if available)	Apt #		ity State	Zip		Daytime Phone a	nd Email (optional)					
Printed name of adult compl	eting the form	」	ignature of adult completing the form									

STEP 5 Other Benefits – This sec	ction does not need to be completed to	o receive free or reduced price meal benefits.	
Do you want to receive Textbook Assistance ? Yes If yes, sign to the right	information on this application for textbook ass	sistance. I give up my right of confidentiality for this purpose only. This application mily and Social Services Administration pursuant to I.C. 20-33-5-2 and I.C. 12-14-28-2,	School Use On Approved Denied Not Applical
0	Signature of adult completing the form	Today's date	
	mily and Social Services Administration for the purpo	ose of identifying children who may qualify for free or low-cost health insurance under Medica m the parent/guardian of the child(ren) for whom application is being made. I authorize the release a second process of the child free for information about Hoosier Healthwise health insurance and 1-800-889-9949.	ease of
Signature of adult completing the form	Today's date		
OPTIONAL Children's Racial and Ethr			
we are required to ask for information about your children not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price	meals.	d helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional ar	na aoes
Ethnicity (check one):	Race (check or	ne or more):	
Hispanic or Latino	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	
Not Hispanic or Latino	∐ Asian —	White	
INOT HISPATIIC OF LATINO	Black or African American		
remporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food I umber or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate I to thave a social security number. We will use your information to de and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast producation, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund rogram reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agris Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in liscriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of coarge print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), shou applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf. hard of hearing	that the adult household member signing the application does steermine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, rograms. We MAY share your eligibility information with d, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for a violations of program rules. riculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, or administering USDA programs are prohibited from e, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in ammunication for program information (e.g. Braille, ald contact the Agency (State or local) where they not or have speech disabilities may contact USDA	office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form to USDA by: mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 fax: (202) 690-7442; or email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.	
		- DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE IVERSION to YEARLY:	1
WEEKLY X 52	EVERY 2 WEEKS X 26	TWICE A MONTH X 24 MONTHLY X 12]
Income Eligibility: Total Household Size: OR Categorical Eligibility: □ Food Stamps/TAl Eligibility Determination: □ Approved Free □ Reason for Denial: □ Income Too High □ In Type of Eligibility Notification Provided (if denic Signature of Determining Official: □	Total Income:\$ per:	Date Withdrawn:	
	VERIF	FICATION	
		n Direct Verified? Yes □ No □	
Date Verification Notice Sent: Date Response Due from Households: Date Second Notice Sent (or N/A):	☐ Household Size and Income	Verification Results: Reason for Change: Date Notice of Change □ No Change Income: Sent: □ Free to Reduced □ Household Size: Change in Food Stamps /TANF	
Date Second Notice Sent (or N/A):		□ Reduced to Free □ Did not respond □ Date Change Made:	
Request for Appeal Date Hearing Requested: Hearing Decision:	Verifying Official's Signature:	Date:	