LETTER TO HOUSEHOLDS/FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - SCHOOL YEAR 2026-27

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Kohler School District offers healthy meals every school day. Elementary lunch costs $4.25, and middle and high school lunch costs $5.00. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is $.40 for lunch. 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 FoodShare, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or W-2 cash benefits are eligible for free meals, when listed on the application.
    - 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 qualify to receive free or reduced price meals if your household income is at or below the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.

	ANNUAL INCOME LEVEL		MONTHLY INCOME LEVEL	
	Free	Reduced Price	Free	Reduced Price
Family (Household) Size	*Must be at or below figure listed*	*Must be at or between figures listed*	*Must be at or below figure listed*	*Must be at or between figures listed*
1	$20,748	$20,748 .01 and $29,526	$1,729	$1,729.01 and $2,461
2	28,132	28,132 .01 and 40,034	2,345	2,345.01 and 3,337
3	35,516	35,516.01 and 50,542	2,960	2,960.01 and 4,212
4	42,900	42,900.01 and 61,050	3,575	3,575.01 and 5,088
5	50,284	50,284.01 and 71,558	4,191	4,191.01 and 5,964
6	57,668	57,668.01 and 82,066	4,806	4,806.01 and 6,839
7	65,052	65,052.01 and 92,574	5,421	5,421.01 and 7,715
8	72,436	72,436.01 and 103,082	6,037	6,037.01 and 8,591
For each additional household member, add	+ 7,384	+ 7,384 and + 10,508	+ 616	+ 616 and + 876

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 have not been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail Andrea Walter, Director of Student Services, 920-803-7207 or email waltera@kohler.k12.wi.us.

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: Andrea Walter, Director of Student Services, 920-803-7207 or email waltera@kohler.k12.wi.us

4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS? Please read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. If your letter indicated you qualify for free meals, then no application is needed. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact Andrea Walter, Director of Student Services at 920-803-7207 immediately. If your household was notified it qualified for reduced price meals, we encourage you to complete an application to potentially qualify for free meals based on household size and income.

5. 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, or when a new eligibility is determined. **You must submit a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.** If you do not submit 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 for meals.

6. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals, but it is based on income. Please submit an application.

7. MY CHILD PARTICIPATES IN BADGERCARE PLUS OR MEDICAID. CAN MY CHILD GET FREE MEALS? Children participating in BadgerCare Plus or Medicaid may be eligible for free or reduced price meals, but it is based on income. Please submit 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 or experience a financial hardship 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 Mike Juech, Superintendent, at 920-803-7201.

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. Do not include any combat pay resulting from deployment as income.

15. WHAT IF THERE IS NOT 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.

16. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for FoodShare or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-800-362-3002. You may also dial 211 to reach a free confidential service that connects you with thousands of local programs and services.

If you have other questions or need help, call Andrea Walter, Director of Student Services

920-803-7207 | waltera@kohler.k12.wi.us.