FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SCHOOL MEALS AND SUMMER EBT APPLICATION

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are pleased to inform you that we will be participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. Children need healthy meals to learn!

The **GREAT NEWS** is that **ALL** students enrolled can receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at **NO CHARGE** to your household each day.

However, we still need your household to complete a School Meals and Summer EBT Application. This application is critical in determining if you will qualify for new assistance (Summer EBT) from the State of Michigan and the amount of money that our school receives from a variety of State and Federal supplemental programs like Title I A, At-risk (31a), Title II A, E-Rate, etc.

These supplemental programs have the potential to offer supports and services for our students including, but not limited to:

- Instructional support (staff, supplies & materials, etc.)
- Non-instructional services (counseling, social work, health services, etc.)
- Professional Learning for staff
- Parent and Community engagement supplies and activities
- Technology

We are asking that you please complete and submit the Household Meal Application as soon as possible to ensure that additional funding for our school is available to meet the needs of our students. All information on the report submitted is confidential. Without your assistance in completing and returning the report, our school cannot maximize the use of available State and Federal funds.

COMMON QUESTIONS:

- 1. WHO CAN GET FREE MEALS?
 - All children enrolled in the district are automatically eligible for free breakfast and lunch meals.
 - Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
 - 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, please call or email Melissa Duffrin, melissa.duffrin@hanoverhorton.org.
- DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. Use one School Meals and Summer EBT
 Application for all students in your household. We cannot process an application that is not complete, so be sure to
 fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: Hanover-Horton Schools Attn: Alan
 Breneman, 10000 Moscow Rd. Horton, MI 49246.
- 4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILD'S APPLICATION HAS BEEN PROCESSED? No, but please read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your notification, contact Alan Breneman, (517) 990-3603 or email hanover.foodservice@hanoverhorton.org.
 - 5. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? Yes! You are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application. The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit https://hanoverhorton.familyportal.cloud/ to begin or to learn more about the online application

process. Contact Alan Breneman, (517) 990-3603 or email hanover.foodservice@hanoverhorton.org 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 10/5/2023. If you do not send in a new application that is processed by the school or you have not been notified that your child's application has been received, please submit an application online at https://hanoverhorton.familyportal.cloud/.
- 7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Yes, all children in the household are eligible for free breakfast and lunch meals.
- 8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? No
- **9.** IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER? Yes, you may submit an application at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may want to submit an updated application because of adjusted household income.
- **10.**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 submit an application.
- 11. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you <u>normally</u> 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 occasionally. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
- 12. 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.
- 13. 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.
- 14. 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 Alan Breneman, (517) 990-3603 or email hanover.foodservice@hanoverhorton.org to receive a second application.
- 15. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for the Food **Assistance Program (FAP)** or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office https://newmibridges.michigan.gov/s/isd-partnershiplanding?language=en_US.

If you have other questions or need help, call (517) 990-3603.

Sincerely,

Food Service Director

Alan Breneman

Hanover Horton Schools

HOW TO APPLY FOR SCHOOL MEALS AND SUMMER EBT

Please use these instructions to help you fill out the School Meals and Summer EBT application. You only need to submit one application per household, even if your children attend more than one school in Hanover-Horton School District. The application must be filled out completely to certify your children for school meals and summer EBT. 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 the Food Service office at (517) 990-3603.

STEP 1: LIST ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS WHO ARE INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND STUDENTS UP TO AND INCLUDING GRADE 12

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 Hanover-Horton School District, <u>regardless of age.</u>
- **A)** List each child's name. Print each child's name. Use one line of the application for each child. When printing names, write one letter in each box. Stop if you run out of space. 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 the Hanover-Horton School District? Mark 'Yes' or 'No' under the column titled "Student" to tell us which children attend the Hanover-Horton Schools. If you marked 'Yes,' write the grade level of the student in the 'Grade' column to the right.
- 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 <u>complete all steps of the application</u>. Homeless, Migrant, Runaway status must be confirmed with the appropriate program staff. If the school district cannot confirm your student's homeless, migrant, or runaway status, then the school district will contact you to complete an income-based application. You may choose to provide income information now to prevent the school district from potentially needing to contact you later

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

STEP 2: DO ANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN SNAP, TANF, OR FDPIR?

- 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) or Food Assistance Program (FAP).
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Family Independence Program (FIP).
- The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).
- 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:

STEP 2: DO ANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN SNAP, TANF, OR FDPIR?

• Write a case number for SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR. You only need to provide one case number. If you participate in one of these programs and do not know your case number, contact your MDHHS caseworker.

Go to **STEP 4**.

STEP 3: LIST ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS AND INCOME FOR EACH MEMBER

How do I report my income?

- Use the charts titled "Sources of Income for Adults" and "Sources of Income for Children," printed on the back side of the application form to determine if your household has income to report.
- Report all amounts in GROSS INCOME ONLY. Report all income in whole dollars. Do not include cents.
- o 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) List 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.
- o 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)." Include college students, unless they are declared independently on taxes (all college students are considered adults). Do not list any household members you listed in Step 1.
- **C) Report earnings from work.** List 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. Net income is your income after taxes and deductions have been subtracted.

STEP 3: LIST ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS AND INCOME FOR EACH MEMBER

- What if I have multiple jobs? List each job separately by entering your name and income from each job on a new line. Add an additional sheet of paper if necessary.
- What if I am self-employed? List income from your business as a net amount. This net amount is calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of your business from its gross receipts (revenue). Gross receipts or revenue are all the income earned from the sale of any products or services offered.
- **D) List income from public assistance/child support/alimony.** List all income that applies in the "Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony" field on the application. <u>Do not report the cash value of any public assistance benefits NOT listed on the chart.</u> 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)** List income from pensions/retirement/all other income. List all income that applies in the "Pensions/Retirement/ All Other Income" field on the application.
- **F)** List 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 Social Security Number."

STEP 4: CONTACT INFORMATION AND ADULT SIGNATURE

An adult member of the household must sign the application. 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 and write today's date.** Print the name of the adult signing the application and that person signs in the box "Signature of adult."
- C) Mail Completed Form to: Hanover-Horton School District Attn: Alan Breneman, 10000 Moscow Rd. Horton, MI 49246 Optional

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. This information is requested solely for the purpose of determining the State's compliance with Federal civil rights laws, and your response will not affect consideration of your application and may be protected by the Privacy Act. By providing this information, you will assist us in assuring that this program is administered in a nondiscriminatory manner.

Please return the application directly to your child's SCHOOL. DO NOT mail, fax, or email completed applications or questions about applications to the USDA Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights or your child's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals will be delayed.

2023-2024 School Meals and Summer EBT Application

Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil).

Printed Name of Adult Signing Form

STEP 1: List ALL children, infants, and students up to and including grade 12. Attach another sheet of paper if you need space for more names. List ALL children in the household. Do not forget to list infants, children attending other schools, children not in school, and children not applying for benefits. This includes children not related to you in your household. **Child's First Name** Child's Last Name Student? School Grade Foster Homeless Yes No. Child Migrant, Runaway If you checked any of these boxes, please refer to the Application Instruction's Step 1: Part C & Part D. STEP 2: Do any Household Members (including you) currently participate in: SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR? If NO > Go to STEP 3. If YES > Write a case number here, then go to STEP 4 (Do not complete STEP 3). Case Number: (Write only one case number in this space) STEP 3: List ALL household members and income for each member (before taxes and deductions). Skip this step if you answered "YES" to STEP 2. List all Adult Household Members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. For each Household Member listed, if they receive income, report total gross income (before taxes and deductions) for each source in whole dollars (no cents) only. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0'. If you enter '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. A. Child Income How Often? Please put an X Child Income Sometimes children in the household earn or receive income. Please include the TOTAL income received by ALL children listed in STEP 1 here. Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Month Monthly Annual B. All Adult Household Members (including yourself) List all Household Members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. For each Household Member listed, if they do receive income, report total gross income (before taxes and deductions) for each source in whole dollars (no cents) only. If they do not receive income from any source, write "0". If you enter "0" or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. **PLEASE PRINT** Public Assistance/ How often received? Pensions/Retirement/ How often received? Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Month Monthly Annual Alimony/Child Support Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Month Monthly Annual All Other Income Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Month Monthly Annual 1) _____ \$ _____ Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of Total Household Members Primary Wage Earner or Other Adult Household Member (if Applicable) ____ __ ____ Check if no SSN (Children and Adults) **STEP 4:** Contact information and adult signature. RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO: "I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal Funds, and that school officials may verify (confirm) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws". Street Address (if available) Apt # State Phone (Optional) Email (Optional)

Signature of Adult

Apply online: https://hanoverhorton.familyportal.cloud/

Today's Date

Sources of Child Income			Examples	•			
Earnings from work				A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages			
Social Security				A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security Benefits.			
- Disability Payments			A parent is disable	A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits.			
- Survivor's Benefits			A 6 :	16 college de la constante de la college de			
Income from person outside the household				A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money. A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust.			
Income from any other source			A child receives re	egular income from a private pe	ension fund, annuity, or trust.		
Sources of Adult Income		Examples					
Earnings from work		-If you are in the -Allowances for o	US Military: - Basic pay and off-base housing, food and c				
Public Assistance / Alimony / Child Support -Unemployment Benefits -Workers compensation -Supplemental Security Income (SSI) -Cash assistance from State or local government -Alimony payments-Child support payments -Veteran's benefits						enefits -Strike benefits	
Pensions / Retirement / All Oth	ensions / Retirement / All Other Income -Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits) -Private pensions or disability benefits -Annuities -Regular income from trusts or estates -Investment income -Earned interest -Regular cash payments from outside household						
OPTIONAL: Children's ethi	nic and racial identities.	This information is l	kept confidential and may be	e protected by the Privacy Act	of 1974.		
We are required to ask for informa and does not affect your children's			is information is important an	d helps to make sure we are fully	serving our community. Responding	to this section is optional	
· · ·				merican, or other Spanish Culture	or origin, regardless of race) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islar	Not Hispanic or Latino	
Race (check one or more)	American Indian or	Alaskan Native	AsianBlack or	African American	Native Hawaiian of Other Pacific Islan	idei	
may also use your information to nother that the adult does not have one, 'Check the contract of the contract	nake sure that program ruck if no Social Security Nu AP) or Temporary Assistal	les are met. Please be imber' Applications for nce for Needy Familie	e sure to provide the last four a foster child do not need to s (TANF) or Food Distribution	numbers of the Social Security n list a Social Security number. Ap Program on Indian Reservations	egram benefits to your household. Insumber of the adult household member plications for children in households result (FDPIR) do not need to list a Social ess, migrant, or runaway.	er who signs the application. I eceiving Supplemental	
nstitution is prohibited from discrir Program information may be made	ninating on the basis of ra available in languages of ge), should contact the res	ce, color, national orig ther than English. Per	gin, sex (including gender ider sons with disabilities who requ	ntity and sexual orientation), disal uire alternative means of commu	nt of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights re oility, age, or reprisal or retaliation for nication to obtain program information enter at (202) 720-2600 (voice and T	prior civil rights activity. n (e.g., Braille, large print,	
Complaint Form (https://www.usda	n.gov/sites/default/files/doc etter must contain the com	cuments/USDA-OASC	CR%20P-Complaint-Form-050 ress, telephone number, and	8-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.p a written description of the allege	nich can be obtained online at <u>USDA</u> df), from any USDA office, by calling d discriminatory action in sufficient do bmitted to USDA	(866) 632-9992, or by writing	
1400	Department of Agriculture of the Assistant Secretar, Independence Avenue, Stington, D.C. 20250-9410;	y for Civil Rights W	(3) email: program.i	-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or intake@usda.gov.	*Do not mail applications to complaints of discriminati		
DO NOT FILL OUT: For	School Use Only						
Annual Income Conversion: Weel	kly x 52, Every 2 Weeks x	26, Twice a Month x	24, Monthly x 12. Do not annu	ualize income to determine eligib	ility unless more than one income fre	quency is listed.	
Total Income: \$ \$	\$ \$ \$ \$ \text{Veekly 2x Month M}	\$	Household Size:	_ Categorical Eligibilit	y: Eligibility: _	-	
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