

ANNUAL NEWS RELEASE - PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Mount Pleasant Cottage School UFSD announced a free and reduced price meal (Free Milk) policy for Mount Pleasant Cottage School UFSD school children.

Local school officials have adopted the following family eligibility criteria to assist them in determining eligibility:

**2016-2017 INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES
FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS OR FREE MILK**

Free Eligibility Scale						Reduced Price Eligibility Scale					
Free Lunch, Breakfast, Milk						Reduced Price Lunch, Breakfast					
Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly	Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$ 15,444	\$ 1,287	\$ 644	\$ 594	\$ 297	1	\$ 21,978	\$ 1,832	\$ 916	\$ 846	\$ 423
2	\$ 20,826	\$ 1,736	\$ 868	\$ 801	\$ 401	2	\$ 29,637	\$ 2,470	\$ 1,235	\$ 1,140	\$ 570
3	\$ 26,208	\$ 2,184	\$ 1,092	\$ 1,008	\$ 504	3	\$ 37,296	\$ 3,108	\$ 1,554	\$ 1,435	\$ 718
4	\$ 31,590	\$ 2,633	\$ 1,317	\$ 1,215	\$ 608	4	\$ 44,955	\$ 3,747	\$ 1,874	\$ 1,730	\$ 865
5	\$ 36,972	\$ 3,081	\$ 1,541	\$ 1,422	\$ 711	5	\$ 52,614	\$ 4,385	\$ 2,193	\$ 2,024	\$ 1,012
6	\$ 42,354	\$ 3,530	\$ 1,765	\$ 1,629	\$ 815	6	\$ 60,273	\$ 5,023	\$ 2,512	\$ 2,319	\$ 1,160
7	\$ 47,749	\$ 3,980	\$ 1,990	\$ 1,837	\$ 919	7	\$ 67,951	\$ 5,663	\$ 2,832	\$ 2,614	\$ 1,307
8	\$ 53,157	\$ 4,430	\$ 2,215	\$ 2,045	\$ 1,023	8	\$ 75,647	\$ 6,304	\$ 3,152	\$ 2,910	\$ 1,455
Each Add'l person add	\$ 5,408	\$ 451	\$ 226	\$ 208	\$ 104	Each Add'l person add	\$ 7,696	\$ 642	\$ 321	\$ 296	\$ 148

SNAP/TANF/FDPIR Households: Households which that currently include children who receive SNAP but who are not found during the DCOMP, or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) must complete an application listing the child's name, a SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR case number and the signature of an adult household member, or provide an Eligibility letter for free meals/milk from the NYS Education Department

Other Households: Households with income the same or below the amounts listed above for family size may be eligible for and are urged to apply for free and/or reduced price meals (or free milk). They may do so by completing the application sent home with the letter to parents. Additional copies are available at the principal's office in each school. Applications may be submitted any time during the school year to the Assistant Superintendent of Business.

The information provided on the application will be confidential and will be used for determining eligibility. The names and eligibility status of participants may also be used for the allocation of funds to federal education programs such as Title I and National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), State health or State education programs, provided the State agency or local education agency administers the programs, and for federal, State or local means-tested nutrition programs with eligibility standards comparable to the NSLP. Eligibility information may also be released to programs authorized under the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) or the Child Nutrition Act (CNA). The release of information to any program or entity not specifically authorized by the NSLA will require a written consent statement from the parent or guardian.

The school district does, however, have the right to verify at any time during the school year the information on the application. If a parent does not give the school this information, the child/children will no longer be able to receive free or reduced price meals (free milk).

Foster children are eligible for free meal benefits. A separate application for a foster child is no longer necessary. Foster children may be listed on the application as a member of the family where they reside. Applications must include the foster child's name and personal use income.

Under the provisions of the policy, the designated official will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with the ruling of the designated official, he/she may make a request either orally or in writing for a hearing to appeal the decision.

The Superintendent of Schools whose address is 1075 Broadway, Pleasantville NY 10570 has been designated as the Hearing Official. Hearing procedures are outlined in the policy. However, prior to initiating the hearing procedure, the parent or School Food Authority may request a conference to provide an opportunity for the parent and official to discuss the situation, present information, and obtain an explanation of the data submitted in the application or the decisions rendered. The request for a conference shall not in any way prejudice or diminish the right to a fair hearing.

Only complete applications can be approved. This includes complete and accurate information regarding: the SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR case number; the names of all household members; on an income application the last four digits of the social security number of the person who signs the form or an indication that the adult does not have one, and the amount and source of income received by each household member. In addition, the parent or guardian must sign the application form, certifying the information is true and correct.

Nondiscrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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