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January 25, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Hawkins County Schools has been so grateful to USDA for the provision to offer free breakfast and lunch to all students (and any community children age 0-18) so far this school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, we are very happy to announce that these free meals will continue for the remainder of the 20-21 school year! We encourage you to take advantage of free meals served at school and those pickup meals for students learning virtually or any child age 0-18 in the community not enrolled in Hawkins County Schools. When you take advantage of this terrific free resource, you not only help your family, but you also help our Child Nutrition program stay viable through this difficult time.

While meals will be offered at no cost to students regardless of ability to pay this school year, it is still vitally important for families to complete the annual application for free or reduced meal benefits. If you did not return an application by September 16, 2020, and receive a determination letter, it is possible that your child may not be eligible for Round 3 of the P-EBT benefits from the Department of Human Services, even if you did receive a P-EBT card for Round 2 in the fall. It is our understanding that P-EBT benefits may continue periodically through the end of the 20-21 school year, so it may be important to apply for free or reduced meal benefits for future benefit potential.

Furthermore, the information you provide on the application will help ensure that your child continues to have access to the level of resources he/she currently has at school. It impacts funding that each school receives from the federal and state government, affecting provisions such as supplemental instructional materials, technology equipment, additional teachers or teaching assistants, grants, discounts for test fees and college application processes, and much more!

If your family has not completed a free or reduced meals application this school year, or if you did apply and your household income has changed, please consider completing the application now. Applications are available online at www.hck12.net and choose the Child Nutrition button for the link. Paper or email copies are also available at each school or by emailing mandy.kenner@hck12.net.

Should you have questions about your child's application or benefit determination please call the Child Nutrition Office at 423-272-2128 or email at mandy.kenner@hck12.net.

Best regards,

Mandy Kenner
Director of Child Nutrition

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.