

**Lake Park Audubon ISD 2889**  
**PO Box 479, Lake Park, MN 56554**  
**218-325-0754 Ext. 1079**  
**July 2018**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

**Please read this letter to find out how parents may save up to \$376.20 per elementary child or \$478.80 for each high school child in your family during the 2018-2019 school year. The savings occur for families who are eligible for Free or Reduced Meals. Your savings will actually become a financial benefit to the School District.**

In an effort to boost revenue for the District, the Lake Park Audubon Board of Education has approved incentives to encourage completion of the "Free and Reduced" meal applications. A family submitting a completed application will choose between two incentive options:

- 1. \$25 reduction to a Student or Family Activities Pass for each K-12 child enrolled at LPA**
- 2. \$10 credit to the student or family lunch account for each K-12 child enrolled at LPA.**
- 3. The options are available to families who submit a completed application for Free and Reduced Meals prior to September 24, 2018.**

The District benefit increases when the number of students receiving Free and Reduced meals rises. The benefits come from Federal and State funding programs and potentially from other grant programs.

- 1. The District receives \$3.42 for every free and reduced lunch meal served. That is 72 cents more than the District receives for an elementary paid lunch and 12 cents more than a high school paid lunch.**
- 2. LPA currently offers free breakfast to our elementary students. The program is partially funded government programs. If LPA's percent of Free and Reduced eligibility approaches 50%, the program can become fully funded and potentially generate revenue for the District.**
- 3. The Minnesota Department of Education provides "Compensatory" revenue to school districts. A primary factor in determining the level of revenue is the percentage of children eligible for Free and Reduced meals. Here is a comparative example of two recent years:**
  - 2017 – The percentage of LPA students eligible for Free and Reduced meals = 29.4% and generated \$193,806 in Compensatory revenue
  - 2013 – The percentage of LPA students eligible for Free and Reduced meals = 41.4% and generated \$328,873 in Compensatory revenue
  - **The difference of 12% generated \$135,067 more revenue for the District in 2013**
- 4. Other Federal and State grants and programs use Free and Reduced percentages as a qualifying factor in determining grant eligibility or level of eligibility. Depending on the program, that translates into several thousand dollars.**

Sincerely,

Dale Hogie, Superintendent

Please review the income guidelines provided with this letter and return this “Free and Reduced” application by **August 8** for early registration purposes. Send to **Kathy Hamre, LPA District Office, PO Box 479, Lake Park, MN 56554. On-line application is available with instructions provided within this document.**

**Anticipated Questions:**

**How do I indicate my choice of incentive options?** Complete the “Incentive Choice” section provided at the bottom of this page. Then, return it with your completed Free and Reduced application form.

**Who can get free school meals?** Children in households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), foster, homeless, migrant and runaway children can get free school meals without reporting household income. Also, children can get free school meals if their household income is within the maximum income shown for their household size on the instructions.

**I get WIC. Can my children get free meals?** Children in households participating in WIC or Medical Assistance may be eligible for free school meals. Please fill out an application.

**May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen?** Yes. You or your children do not have to be U.S. citizens for your children to qualify for free meals.

**Who should I include as household members?** Include yourself and all other people living in the household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends).

**What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount that you normally get. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get overtime only sometimes.

**How will the information I provide be kept?** Information you provide on the form and your child’s approval for school meal benefits, will be protected as private data. Financial information is reviewed only by two LPA staff members for verification and family financial information is not forwarded to any other business or government agency. Other LPA staff members monitoring payments will only know of the eligibility status, but not income levels or sources. A representative from the Minnesota Department of Education may conduct an on-site review. See the back page of the Application for Educational Benefits for more information about how the information is used.

**Will the information I give be checked?** Yes, and we may also ask you to send written proof.

If you have other questions or need help, call Kathy at 218-325-0754 Ext. 1079.

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**Free and Reduced Incentive Choice**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 Applied toward Activities Pass                      \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 Applied to Lunch Account Balance

Parent Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Children: \_\_\_\_\_