

# VAN ALSTYNE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Dr. Alan Seay, Superintendent*  
*Mr. Rick DeMasters, Assistant Superintendent*

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Date: April 9, 2009  
To: Families of VAISD students  
From: Dr. Alan Seay, Superintendent  
Re: Free and Reduced Lunches

In light of the current economic difficulties some of you may be facing I wanted to share with you information that could benefit not only your child(ren) but the school district as well.

Van Alstyne ISD offers our students free or reduced price breakfast and lunch through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs. These programs base the eligibility of a student to receive these meals on the family's income. The regulations allow a family to submit a new application anytime their income changes. I have taken the liberty of including a Lunch Application with this letter in case your family has suffered during this economic downturn. If you previously were approved for these benefits this school year you do NOT need to complete a new application. If your family income has not changed since you last completed an application you do NOT need to complete a new application. This application is intended for those families that have had a change in the family income this school year that may qualify you for this program. You will be required to complete a new application before the start of the next school year. Please follow the directions included to complete this application and return it to your child's campus. We will review the application immediately and, should you qualify, your child will begin receiving these benefits.

I also want to assure you that this process is completely confidential. We take great measures to protect the confidential information contained in the Lunch Application and to make sure a child's status is private. All of our students are in our lunch computerized point of sale program. When they come through the line they enter their personal ID into a keypad which tells the cashier the amount to charge them for a meal. The only person who knows if the student receives free or reduced price meals is the cashier. No other students are able to determine another student's lunch status.

The school district also sees benefits based upon the total percentage of students qualifying for these benefits. Almost all the federal funding and a significant portion of state funding are based upon the percentage of students qualifying for free or reduced price meals. The higher the percentage of students qualifying for these benefits the greater amount of federal and/or state funding available to the district. In addition, eligibility for most state and federal grants are also determined by this percentage.

Please review the attached information. If you have difficulty understanding the application (after all it is produced by the federal government) please feel free to contact any campus principal or cafeteria supervisor. Either of them can assist you in completing the application. If you have questions I can answer please feel free to contact me at the number above.