

ANNUAL NEWS RELEASE - PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Bennett Venture Academy (Local School Food Authority) today announced a free and reduced-price meal (Free Milk) policy. Local school officials have adopted the following family eligibility criteria to assist them in determining eligibility:

**2023-2024 INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES
FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS OR FREE MILK**

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES												
Effective from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024												
HOUSEHOLD SIZE	FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES	REDUCED PRICE MEALS - 185 %					FREE MEALS - 130 %					
	ANNUAL	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY	
48 CONTIGUOUS STATES, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, GUAM, AND TERRITORIES												
1	14,580	26,973	2,248	1,124	1,038	519	18,954	1,580	790	729	365	
2	19,720	36,482	3,041	1,521	1,404	702	25,636	2,137	1,069	986	493	
3	24,860	45,991	3,833	1,917	1,769	885	32,318	2,694	1,347	1,243	622	
4	30,000	55,500	4,625	2,313	2,135	1,068	39,000	3,250	1,625	1,500	750	
5	35,140	65,009	5,418	2,709	2,501	1,251	45,682	3,807	1,904	1,757	879	
6	40,280	74,518	6,210	3,105	2,867	1,434	52,364	4,364	2,182	2,014	1,007	
7	45,420	84,027	7,003	3,502	3,232	1,616	59,046	4,921	2,461	2,271	1,136	
8	50,560	93,535	7,795	3,898	3,598	1,799	65,728	5,478	2,739	2,528	1,264	
For each add'l family member, add	5,140	9,509	793	397	366	183	6,682	557	279	257	129	
ALASKA												
1	18,210	33,689	2,808	1,404	1,296	648	23,673	1,973	987	911	456	
2	24,640	45,584	3,799	1,900	1,754	877	32,032	2,670	1,335	1,232	616	
3	31,070	57,480	4,790	2,395	2,211	1,106	40,391	3,366	1,683	1,554	777	
4	37,500	69,375	5,782	2,891	2,669	1,335	48,750	4,063	2,032	1,875	938	
5	43,930	81,271	6,773	3,387	3,126	1,563	57,109	4,760	2,380	2,197	1,099	
6	50,360	93,166	7,764	3,882	3,584	1,792	65,468	5,456	2,728	2,516	1,259	
7	56,790	105,062	8,756	4,378	4,041	2,021	73,827	6,153	3,077	2,840	1,420	
8	63,220	116,957	9,747	4,874	4,499	2,250	82,186	6,849	3,425	3,161	1,581	
For each add'l family member, add	6,430	11,895	892	496	458	229	8,355	697	349	322	161	
HAWAII												
1	16,770	31,025	2,586	1,293	1,194	597	21,801	1,817	909	839	420	
2	22,680	41,958	3,497	1,749	1,614	807	29,484	2,457	1,229	1,134	567	
3	28,590	52,892	4,408	2,204	2,035	1,018	37,167	3,098	1,549	1,430	715	
4	34,500	63,825	5,319	2,660	2,455	1,228	44,850	3,738	1,869	1,725	863	
5	40,410	74,759	6,230	3,115	2,876	1,438	52,533	4,378	2,189	2,021	1,011	
6	46,320	85,692	7,141	3,571	3,296	1,648	60,216	5,018	2,509	2,316	1,158	
7	52,230	96,625	8,053	4,027	3,717	1,859	67,899	5,659	2,830	2,612	1,306	
8	58,140	107,559	8,964	4,482	4,137	2,069	75,582	6,299	3,150	2,907	1,454	
For each add'l family member, add	5,910	10,934	912	456	421	211	7,683	641	321	296	148	

SNAP/TANF/FDPIR Households: Households which currently include children who receive SNAP but who are not found during the DCMP, 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 New York State Education Department

Other Households: Households with incomes the same or below the amount of money listed above for their 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 filling in the application forms sent home with a 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 Emilie Smith - Food and Nutrition Services Office Administrator Lead.

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 may also be eligible for these 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. They 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.

Bill Strong, whose address is 3850 Broadmoor SE Ste 201, Grand Rapids, MI 49512 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 Food Stamp, 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, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

email: Program.Intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

PLEASE NOTE: *This notice **must** be sent to the local media and your local unemployment office at the beginning of each school year.*

The school or district must request the media to publish the entire notice.

The school or district must not post this public announcement on its website or distribute it with the applications.

*The media **are not required to publish** any of the notice.*

The school or district must maintain on file a copy of the letter to the media and the article (if published).

The school or district must not pay to have this notice published.