

Belit Stockfleth, SNAP and Youth Services  
Program Manager

Authorized Signature

**Number:** SS-IM-09-052

**Issue Date:** 10/15/2009

**Topic:** Food Benefits

**Subject:** Oregon School Meal Program

**Applies to (check all that apply):**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees                        | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services                                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children, Adults and Families | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seniors and People with Disabilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers               | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):                         |

Good nutrition is essential for a child’s growth and development. Studies have shown children who eat a healthy breakfast are better learners and have more energy to cope with school work during the day. Also, children who participate in the National School Lunch Program consume less sugar and fat and eat more fruits, vegetables and dairy than children who do not participate. Beginning this school year, the school breakfasts will be free for all households with income less than 185 percent FPL. However, a copayment is still required for some families for school lunches.

Another change for this school year is the availability of the School Lunch Online Application. Families who want to apply for school meals can access the application via <http://www.oregonhunger.org/school-meal-application.html>. Families can apply at any time during the school year, but they are encouraged to complete an application at the beginning of each school year. This is because the data collected by the end of October might help direct needed funds to local schools and neighborhood services. After-school programs can only provide a free meal to students if October data shows that a certain percentage of children qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

DHS has an agreement with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) in providing them a list of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly Food Stamp, recipients on the first Saturday of each month and updates on subsequent Saturdays. ODE will certify the families on the list for the free school meal program. Staff are encouraged to help clients access the school lunch online application when their eligibility is being pended for verification or for some other reasons. With our state’s economy and the unemployment rate skyrocketing to 12.2 percent in early September, it is very important for us to provide as much help as we could for families who need our assistance.

*If you have any questions about this information, contact:*

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