

## PUBLIC RELEASE

July 19, 2011

Dunklin R-V School District announced its revised free and reduced price policy for school children unable to pay the full price of meals served in schools under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program.

Local education officials have adopted the following family-size income criteria for determining eligibility:

| Household Size    | Maximum Household Income Eligible for Free Meals |                |               | Maximum Household Income Eligible for Reduced Price Meals |                |               |
|-------------------|--|----------------|---------------|---|----------------|---------------|
|                   | <u>Annually</u>                                  | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Weekly</u> | <u>Annually</u>   | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Weekly</u> |
| 1                 | \$14,157   | \$1,180        | \$273         | \$20,147  | \$1,679        | \$388         |
| 2                 | 19,123   | 1,594          | 368           | 27,214  | 2,268          | 524           |
| 3                 | 24,089   | 2,008          | 464           | 34,281  | 2,857          | 660           |
| 4                 | 29,055   | 2,422          | 559           | 41,348  | 3,446          | 796           |
| 5                 | 34,021   | 2,836          | 655           | 48,415  | 4,035          | 932           |
| 6                 | 38,987   | 3,249          | 750           | 55,482  | 4,624          | 1,067         |
| 7                 | 43,953   | 3,663          | 846           | 62,549  | 5,213          | 1,203         |
| 8                 | 48,919   | 4,077          | 941           | 69,616  | 5,802          | 1,339         |
| Each add'l member | +4,966   | +414           | +96           | +7,067  | +589           | +136          |

Children from families whose current income is at or below those shown are eligible for free or reduced price meals. Applications are available at the school office. To apply, fill out a Free and Reduced Price School Meals Family Application and return it to the school. The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used only for the purpose of determining eligibility. Applications may be submitted any time during the school year. A complete application is required as a condition of eligibility. A complete application includes: (1) household income from all sources or Food Stamp/Temporary Assistance case number, (2) names of all household members, and (3) the signature and last four digits of social security number of adult household member signing the application. School officials may verify current income at any time during the school year.

Foster children may be eligible regardless of the income of the household with whom they reside.

If a family member becomes unemployed or if family size changes, the family should contact the school to file a new application. Such changes may make the children of the family eligible for these benefits.

Under the provisions of the policy, the **Food Service Director** will review the applications and determine eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with the ruling of the determining official, they may wish to discuss the decision with the hearing official on an informal basis or he may make a request either orally or in writing to the **Assistant Superintendent**.

Hearing procedures are outlined in the policy. A complete copy of the policy is on file in each school and in the central office where any interested party may review it.

Non-discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. "In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."