

1 The school system will provide free meals and reduced price meals to eligible students in the
2 schools.

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4 The principal shall make applications for free or reduced price meals readily available to parents
5 or guardians and shall accept completed applications at any time during the school year.

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7 In accordance with the guidelines for participation in these programs, and in accordance with the
8 wishes of the [Transylvania County Board of Education \(the “board”\)](#), no student who meets the
9 criteria for eligibility for free and reduced meal benefits will be denied a free lunch, milk, or
10 other food simply because the proper application has not been received from his or her parent or
11 guardian. The principal may complete an application, based on the best household size and
12 income information available, for a student known to be needy if the parent or guardian fails to
13 apply. The source of the information must be noted on the application. The principal shall
14 ensure that school rules and procedures are implemented in ways that do not impede eligible
15 students from participating fully in these programs.

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17 The information provided on each application is confidential. Employees with access to this
18 confidential information must make reasonable efforts to maintain the anonymity of students
19 participating in the free or reduced price meal program.

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21 Each year, the superintendent or designee shall ensure that the school system has met all federal
22 requirements to verify the eligibility of applicants. When school personnel become aware of
23 information that raises concerns about the integrity of an application, the superintendent or
24 designee must verify the questionable information by following the verification for cause
25 procedures set forth in federal regulations.

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27 The superintendent is authorized to apply for community eligibility as an alternative to collecting
28 individual household applications for free and reduced price meals for any school or group of
29 schools that meet the eligibility requirements for community eligibility established by federal
30 law. In schools approved for participation pursuant to the community eligibility requirements,
31 the board will serve free lunches and breakfasts to all students in the school without regard to
32 income and will cover with non-federal funds any costs of providing the free meals above the
33 amounts provided by federal assistance. Participating schools will not collect free and reduced
34 price applications from households.

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36 The superintendent shall establish procedures that conform to state and federal requirements
37 regarding participation in programs for free and reduced priced meal benefits.

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39 Legal References: Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. 1771 *et seq.*; 7 C.F.R. Parts 210, 215,
40 220, and 245; Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g; Healthy, Hunger
41 Free Kids Act of 2010, P.L. 111-296; National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. 1751, *et seq.*; G.S.
42 115C-263, -264

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44 Cross References: Goals of School Nutrition Services (policy 6200)

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46 Adopted:
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