

# WIN-E-MAC SCHOOL DISTRICT

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10/22/2020

## *Win-E-Mac School District Parents and Students,*

We need you to fill out the forms even though the Meals at school are Free this year. We have just been informed from the USDA and Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) has notified us that free meals for all students will be available **through the end of the 2020-21 school year.**

**Filling out the application for educational benefits form and qualifying for free and/or reduced meals now will also carry you through the beginning of the next school year.**

Providing high quality meals in an effort to nourish your students continues to be our highest priority so that they are ready to learn and grow whether they are learning in school or at home.

**We continue to strongly encourage everyone to fill out the application for educational benefits.** The higher the number of qualified recipients of free and/or reduced meals a school district has, the more federal and state monies become available to our district in other areas as well as in our food service department.

Most people associate the form with Free and Reduced meals for our school nutrition program, but the benefits for those who qualify extend beyond school meals. In addition to your student receiving free or reduced meals, there are other benefits to the student and school district as:

- Reduction in athletic fees
- Technology equipment and internet service for distance learning
- Free ACT testing
- Waived college application fees
- Registration fees waived for some community and various camp programs.

Simply save the verification letter that qualifies your student for the free and reduced meal program after your application has been processed to access these benefits.

**The application for education benefits is also critical for receiving Compensatory state aid.** Compensatory aid is generated from the number of qualified Free and Reduced applications we process. This pays for extra staff low class size, instructional materials, technology and Federal Title Funds which benefit the District, so you are not taxed. Because of your applications we were able to qualify for a USDA equipment grant for new ovens, dish washing machine serving tables and other kitchen equipment. By submitting the student's application for educational benefits, you are directly helping generate funds for these programs and resources in your student's school. You have received the application in many form's and we want you to apply whether you want to take advantage if the benefits or not. All information is confidential. For questions and more information to fill out the form, please call our District office at 218-563-2900.

Sincerely,  
Randy Bruer

**ISD #2609**

Win-E-Mac School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer

