Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Traders Point Christian Schools** offers healthy meals every school day. Lunch costs \$3.75. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is \$0.40 for lunch. This packet includes an application for free or reduced price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

- 1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?
 - All children in households receiving benefits from SNAP (Food Stamps) or TANF, are eligible for free meals.
 - Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
 - Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
 - Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
 - Children may receive free or reduced price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 2022-23						
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly			
1	25,142	2,096	484			
2	33,874	2,823	652			
3	42,606	3,551	820			
4	51,338	4,279	988			
5	60,070	5,006	1,156			
6	68,802	5,734	1,324			
7	77,534	6,462	1,492			
8	86,266	7,189	1,659			
Each additional						
person:	+8,732	+728	+168			

- 2. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY? Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail Sara Hafer at shafer@tpcs.org.
- 3. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. Use one Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: **Traders Point Christian Schools Attn: Sara Hafer, 5770 Whitestown Parkway, Whitestown, IN 46075**.
- 4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? No, but please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact **Sara Hafer at shafer@tpcs.org** immediately.

- 5. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year through **September 15, 2022**. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not send in a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price of meals.
- 6. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF MY CHILDREN RECEIVED FREE OR REDUCED MEALS AT THEIR PREVIOUS SCHOOL? If it is the beginning of the school year and you have not been notified that your children will receive free or reduced meals for the upcoming year, you will need to fill out an application. If your children transferred during the school year and they were receiving free or reduced meals at the previous school, contact **Sara Hafer at shafer@tpcs.org** immediately.
- 7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC <u>may</u> be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please send in an application.
- 8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
- 9. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER? Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
- 10. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION? You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Sara Hafer at shafer@tpcs.org.
- 11. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced price meals.
- 12. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
- 13. WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT? Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application, or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.
- 14. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY? Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.
- 15. WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY? List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper, and attach it to your application. Contact **Sara Hafer at shafer@tpcs.org** to receive a second application.
- 16. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for SNAP (Food Stamp) or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call **1-800-403-0864**.

If you have other questions or need help, call 317-769-2450.

Sincerely,

Sara Hafer

HOW TO APPLY FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Please use these instructions to help you fill out the application for free or reduced price school meals. You only need to submit one application per household, even if your children attend more than one school in **Traders Point Christian Schools**. The application must be filled out completely to certify your children for free or reduced price school meals. Please follow these instructions in order! Each step of the instructions is the same as the steps on your application. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please contact **Sara Hafer at shafer@tpcs.org**.

STEP 1: LIST ALL INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND STUDENTS UP TO AND INCLUDING GRADE 12 IN THE HOUSEHOLD

Tell us how many infants, children, and school students live in your household. They do NOT have to be related to you to be a part of your household.

Who should I list here? When filling out this section, please include ALL members in your household who are:

- Children age 18 or under AND are supported with the household's income;
- In your care under a foster arrangement, or qualify as homeless, migrant, or runaway youth;
- Students attending Traders Point Christian Schools, regardless of age.

A) List each child's name. Print each child's name. Use one line of the application for each child. If there are more children present than lines on the application, attach a second piece of paper with all required information for the additional children.

B) Is the child a student at Traders Point Christian Schools? Mark 'Yes' or 'No' under the column titled "Student" to tell us which children attend Traders Point Christian Schools. If you marked 'Yes,' write the name of the school building, birthdate, and grade level of the student in the 'Grade' column to the right. Is the child living with parent or caretaker relative? Mark 'Yes' or

C) Do you have any foster children? If any children listed are foster children, mark the "Foster Child" box next to the child's name. If you are ONLY applying for foster children, after finishing **STEP 1**, go to **STEP 4**.

Foster children who live with you may count as members of your household and should be listed on your application. If you are applying for both foster and non-foster children, go to step 3.

D) Are any children homeless, migrant, or runaway? If you believe any child listed in this section meets this description, mark the "Homeless, Migrant, Runaway" box next to the child's name and complete all steps of the application.

PLEASE USE A PEN (NOT A PENCIL) WHEN FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION AND DO YOUR BEST TO PRINT CLEARLY.

STEP 2: DO ANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN SNAP or TANF?

'No' next to each child.

If anyone in your household (including you) currently participates in one or more of the assistance programs listed below, your children are eligible for free school meals:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

A) If no one in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:

• Leave STEP 2 blank and go to STEP 3.

B) If anyone in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:

- Write a case number for SNAP or TANF. You only need to provide one case number. If you participate in one of these programs and do not know your case number, contact: 1-800-403-0864.
- Go to STEP 4.

STEP 3: REPORT INCOME FOR ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

How do I report my income?

Sources of Income for Children					
Sources of Child Income	Example(s)				
- Earnings from work	- A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages				
Social Security Disability Payments Survivor's Benefits	A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits A Parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits				
-Income from person outside the household	- A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money				
-Income from any other source	- A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust				

• Use the charts titled "Sources of Income for Adults" and "Sources of Income for Children," located below to determine if your household has income to report.

Sources of Income for Adults						
Earnings from Work	Public Assistance / Alimony / Child Support	Pensions / Retirement / All Other Income				
- Salary, wages, cash bonuses - Net income from self-employment (farm or business) If you are in the U.S. Military: - Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances) - Allowances for off-base housing, food and clothing	- Unemployment benefits - Worker's compensation - Supplemental Security Income (SSI) - Cash assistance from State or local government - Alimony payments - Child support payments - Veteran's benefits - Strike benefits	- Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits) - Private pensions or disability benefits - Regular income from trusts or estates - Annuities - Investment income - Earned interest - Rental income - Regular cash payments from outside household				

- Report all amounts in GROSS INCOME ONLY. Report all income in whole dollars. Do not include cents.
 - o Gross income is the total income received before taxes
 - Many people think of income as the amount they "take home" and not the total, "gross" amount. Make sure that the income you report on this application has NOT been reduced to pay for taxes, insurance premiums, or any other amounts taken from your pay.

- Write a "0" in any fields where there is no income to report. Any income fields left empty or blank will also be counted as a zero. If you write '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. If local officials suspect that your household income was reported incorrectly, your application will be investigated.
- Mark how often each type of income is received using the check boxes to the right of each field.

3.A. REPORT INCOME EARNED BY CHILDREN

A) Report all income earned or received by children. Report the combined gross income for ALL children listed in STEP 1 in your household in the box marked "Child Income." Only count foster children's income if you are applying for them together with the rest of your household.

What is Child Income? Child income is money received from outside your household that is paid DIRECTLY to your children. Many households do not have any child income.

3.B REPORT INCOME EARNED BY ADULTS

Who should I list here?

E) Report income from

- When filling out this section, please include ALL adult members in your household who are living with you and share income and expenses, even if they are not related and even if they do not receive income of their own.
- Do NOT include:
- o People who live with you but are not supported by your household's income AND do not contribute income to your household.
- Infants, Children and students already listed in STEP 1.
- B) List adult household members'
 names. Print the name of each
 household member in the boxes marked
 "Names of Adult Household Members
 (First and Last)." Do not list any
 household members you listed in STEP

 1. If a child listed in STEP 1 has income,
 follow the instructions in STEP 3, part A.

pensions/retirement/all other income.

Report all income that applies in the

"Pensions/Retirement/ All Other

Income" field on the application.

- **C)** Report earnings from work. Report all income from work in the "Earnings from Work" field on the application. This is usually the money received from working at jobs. If you are a self-employed business or farm owner, you will report your net income.
- **What if I am self-employed?** Report income from that work as a net amount. This is calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of your business from its gross receipts or revenue.
- **F)** Report total household size. Enter the total number of household members in the field "Total Household Members (Children and Adults)." This number MUST be equal to the number of household members listed in **STEP 1** and **STEP 3**. If there are any members of your household that you have not listed on the application, go back and add them. It is very important to list all household members, as the size of your household affects your eligibility for free and reduced price meals.
- D) Report income from public assistance/child support/alimony. Report all income that applies in the "Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony" field on the application. Do not report the cash value of any public assistance benefits NOT listed on the chart. If income is received from child support or alimony, only report court-ordered payments. Informal but regular payments should be reported as "other" income in the next part.
- G) Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number. An adult household member must enter the last four digits of their Social Security Number in the space provided. You are eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social Security Number. If no adult household members have a Social Security Number, leave this space blank and mark the box to the right labeled "Check if no SSN."

STEP 4: CONTACT INFORMATION AND ADULT SIGNATURE

All applications must be signed by an adult member of the household. By signing the application, that household member is promising that all information has been truthfully and completely reported. Before completing this section, please also make sure you have read the privacy and civil rights statements on the back of the application.

A) Print and sign your name. Print the
name of the adult signing the application
and that person signs in the box "Signature
of adult "

B) Provide your contact information. Write your current address in the fields provided if this information is available. If you have no permanent address, this does not make your children ineligible for free or reduced price school meals. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.

C) Mail Completed Form to: Traders Point Christian Schools Attn: Sara Hafer, 5770 Whitestown Parkway, Whitestown, IN 46075. D) Share children's racial and ethnic identities (optional). On the back of the application, we ask you to share information about your children's race and ethnicity. This field is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price school meals.

STEP 5: OTHER BENEFITS - OPTIONAL

The following sections are optional and do not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price school meals.

A) Textbook Assistance

If you want to receive textbook assistance, check 'Yes' and then read, sign, and date the section to the right. If you do not want to receive textbook assistance, check 'No'.

B) Hoosier Healthwise Disclosure

If you want to share your child's free/reduced eligibility in order to qualify for free or low-cost health insurance under Medicaid or Hoosier Healthwise, sign and date this section.

2022-2023 Household Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil).

P1 List AL	L infants, children, and students up t	o grad	e 12 who are members of your house				Lise	ner sheet of ing with parent or	paper)	Hamalana
ition of Household	Child's First Name	MI	Child's Last Name	Student? Yes No	Only Students: Name of School Building	Only Students: Birthdate		retaker relative? Yes No	Foste Child	
mber: "Anyone who is g with you and shares	1									
ome and expenses, n if not related."	2								apply	
dren in Foster care children who meet the nition of Homeless ,	3								k all that	
rant or Runaway are ble for free meals. Read	4								S C C	
to Apply for Free and uced Price School s for more information.	5									
stormore information.										
EP 2 Do any H	ousehold Members (including you)	curren	tly participate in one or more of the f	following assis	tance programs: SNAP	(Food Stan	np) or TA	NF?		
	If NO > Go to STEP 3.	If	YES > Write a case number here then go to ST	EP 4 (Do not comp	olete STEP 3)	Case Num	ber: / /	111	1 1	1 1
			-				Write or	nly one case no	ımber in th	nis space.
EP3 Report	Income for ALL Household Memb	oers (S	kip this step if you answered Yes to STE	P 2)						
a you unsure what do here? case read How Apply for Free d Reduced Price hool Meals for the information. ce Sources of the come for Children ction will help unwith the Child the come question. ce Sources of the sources of the come for Adults ction will help you help will help you help will help you help will help will help you help will be	in household listed in STEP 1 here. B. All Adult Household Members (i ll List all Household Members not listed in STE	s La Pr	uding yourself) even if they do not receive incource in whole dollars (no cents) only. If they do no How often? arnings from Work Weekly Every 2 Wks 2x Month Monthly Weekly Every 2 Wks 2x Month Monthly	Public Assistance Child Support/Alii \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	sehold Member listed, if they do om any source, write '0'. If you e	enter '0' or leave	e, report tota e any fields b ions/Retirement her Income	lank, you are	tow often?	g Month Monthly O O O O O O O O O O O O O
	•		nderstand that this information is given in connection with	n the receipt of Federa	I funds, and that school officials may	verify (check) the				
rmation, my children ma	ly lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under app	plicable S	ate and Federal laws."							
d name of adult compl	eting the form	L	gnature of adult completing the form		Today's date					
t Address (if available)		C	ty State	Zip	Daytime Phone					

STEP 5	Other Benefits – This secti	on does not need to be completed to	receive free or re	duced price meal benefits	s.	
Do you want to receive Textbook Assistance ?		I certify that I am the parent/guardian of the child(ren) for whom application is being made. My signature below authorizes the release of information on this application for textbook assistance. I give up my right of confidentiality for this purpose only. This application information will be shared with the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration pursuant to I.C. 20-33-5-2 and I.C. 12-14-28-2, solely for purposes of complying with 45 C.F.R. Parts 260 and 265.				
○ No	in yes, sign to the right					□ Not Applicat
0		Signature of adult completing the form		Today's date		
	want the application information share	y and Social Services Administration for the purpod for this purpose, please sign below. I certify I am		he child(ren) for whom application For information abou		elease of
Signature of ad	dult completing the form	Today's date				
OPTIONAL	Children's Racial and Ethnic	: Identities				
	ask for information about your children's ren's eligibility for free or reduced price m	race and ethnicity. This information is important and eals.		re fully serving our community. Resp	onding to this section is optional	and does
Ethnicity (check of	ne):	Race (check or	ne or more):			
Hispanic or	Latino	American Indian or Alaskan Native		waiian or Other Pacific Islander		
Not Hispanio	or Latino	Asian	☐ White			
Not inspanie	o Latino	Black or African American				
DPIR identifier for loss not have a soon reduced price me hare your eligibility letermine benefits fook into violations on accordance with folicies, this instituti	your child or when you indicate that the a cial security number. We will use your info cals, and for administration and enforceme information with education, health, and n or their programs, auditors for program re of program rules. federal civil rights law and U.S. Departme on is prohibited from discriminating on the	dian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other dult household member signing the application immation to determine if your child is eligible for free ent of the lunch and breakfast programs. We MAY utrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or views, and law enforcement officials to help them int of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and a basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including risal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.	Discrimination Complain at: https://www.usda.gov 17Fax2Mail.pdf, from an letter must contain the codiscriminatory action in and date of an alleged comail: U.S. Department of SW, Washington, D.C. 2		OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-09992, or by writing a letter addres one number, and a written descript Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCI D-3027 form or letter must be sub Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Ir	2508-0002-508-11-28 sed to USDA. The vition of the alleged R) about the nature smitted to USDA by: ndependence Avenue
		FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY -		THIS LINE		4
	WEEKLY X 52	EVERY 2 WEEKS X 26	VERSION to YEARLY: TWICE A M	MONTH X 24	MONTHLY X 12	-
OR Cat Eligibilit Reason Type of	Eligibility: Total Household Size: tegorical Eligibility: □ Food Stamps/TANF ty Determination: □ Approved Free □ A in for Denial: □ Income Too High □ Inco if Eligibility Notification Provided (if denied tree of Determining Official:	Total Income:\$ per:	Foster Date:	Month □ Monthly □ Yearly Date Withdrawn:		
Confirm	nation Review Official:		Direct Verified? Yes □ N	lo 🗆		
Date Ve	erification Notice Sent: esponse Due from Households: econd Notice Sent (or N/A):	Approval Based On: □ Food Stamps / TANF Case Number □ Household Size and Income	Verification Results: No Change Free to Reduced Free to Paid Reduced to Free	Reason for Change: Income:	Date Notice of Change Sent: Date Change Made:	
	(3. 10. 1)	□ Other	☐ Reduced to Free	□ Other:		⁻
Date H	st for Appeal learing Requested: g Decision:	Verifying Official's Signature:		Date:		