

Center Moriches Union Free School District

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January 25, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardians:

On December 22, 2018, certain federal agencies partially shut down operations due to a lapse in federal appropriations. Some employees have been furloughed since that time. In the case of many families, the serviceperson in their family continue to report for duty without pay.

Understandably, this shutdown has created an emotional and financial stress on families serving our nation. Many may have difficulty in timely meeting financial obligations. As a school district, our priority is to ensure students have all the tools they need to be healthy and successful in school and a healthy breakfast and lunch should not be a negotiable item.

The Center Moriches School District has received guidance from the NYS Education Department that we can be of assistance during this time. Furloughed federal employees, or those working without a paycheck, are eligible to apply for our free or reduced meal program, which would provide breakfast and lunch to any impacted students.

In order to take part in the program, families must fill out an application and those approved will maintain this status for the remainder of the school year and a 30-day carry over into the next school year. At that time, families can re-apply should they still qualify for the program.

Our free and reduced meal program is a discreet program that simply changes a family's status in the cafeteria database. From the student's perspective, nothing changes about getting breakfast or lunch in our cafeteria but assures that a meal will be provided without financial hardship at this time.

For more information on the free and reduced meal program and to obtain an application, please visit the district website <http://www.cmschools.org/businessoffice/district-forms/12212> or contact your child's building directly. Only one application is needed per family.

Respectfully,

Russell J. Stewart
Superintendent of Schools