

Press Release
Free and Reduced Price Meal Applications Online in Howard County

Howard County Public School System's Food & Nutrition Service Department is very pleased to announce that they are the first school system in Maryland to be able to offer an **Online Processing System for Free and Reduced Price Meal Applications** at <http://www.hcpss.org/foodservice/free.shtml>. This new addition to the website will allow parents privacy in completing the application and receiving notification of status. There will also be help in the schools for families who want to use the system but need help with the computer or language assistance.

The online application is divided into sections. Each section must be completed with the requested data before the applicant is allowed to move to the next screen. No more receiving returned applications because they are incomplete or the family missed a line. It should be very helpful to the person filling out the application.

The school system currently uses this software to scan the applications they receive through the US mail or from the schools. Parents can continue to complete the paper application and submit it for processing. This new process allows families direct access to the scanning system in complete privacy. Given the current economic downturn this should be very helpful to families.