

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

CONTACT:
 Michelle Yadoo
 Marketing Communications Coordinator
 (516) 922-4100, ext. 231

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**2014-2015 ANNUAL NEWS RELEASE -
 PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**

Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf today announced a free and reduced price meal (Free Milk) policy for children attending the school.

Local school officials have adopted the following family eligibility criteria to assist them in determining eligibility:

**2013-2014 INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES
 FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS OR FREE MILK**

| Free Eligibility Scale | | | | | | Reduced Price Eligibility Scale | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|--|-----------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|
| Free Lunch, Breakfast, Milk | | | | | | Reduced Price Lunch, Breakfast | | | | | |
| Household Size | Annual | Monthly | Twice per Month | Every Two Weeks | Weekly | Household Size | Annual | Monthly | Twice per Month | Every Two Weeks | Weekly |
| 1 | \$ 14,937 | \$ 1,245 | \$ 623 | \$ 575 | \$ 288 | 1 | \$ 21,257 | \$ 1,772 | \$ 886 | \$ 818 | \$ 409 |
| 2 | \$ 20,163 | \$ 1,681 | \$ 841 | \$ 776 | \$ 388 | 2 | \$ 28,694 | \$ 2,392 | \$ 1,196 | \$ 1,104 | \$ 552 |
| 3 | \$ 25,389 | \$ 2,116 | \$ 1,058 | \$ 977 | \$ 489 | 3 | \$ 36,131 | \$ 3,011 | \$ 1,506 | \$ 1,390 | \$ 695 |
| 4 | \$ 30,615 | \$ 2,552 | \$ 1,276 | \$ 1,178 | \$ 589 | 4 | \$ 43,568 | \$ 3,631 | \$ 1,816 | \$ 1,676 | \$ 838 |
| 5 | \$ 35,841 | \$ 2,987 | \$ 1,494 | \$ 1,379 | \$ 690 | 5 | \$ 51,005 | \$ 4,251 | \$ 2,126 | \$ 1,962 | \$ 981 |
| 6 | \$ 41,067 | \$ 3,423 | \$ 1,712 | \$ 1,580 | \$ 790 | 6 | \$ 58,442 | \$ 4,871 | \$ 2,436 | \$ 2,248 | \$ 1,124 |
| 7 | \$ 46,293 | \$ 3,858 | \$ 1,929 | \$ 1,781 | \$ 891 | 7 | \$ 65,879 | \$ 5,490 | \$ 2,745 | \$ 2,534 | \$ 1,267 |
| 8 | \$ 51,519 | \$ 4,294 | \$ 2,147 | \$ 1,982 | \$ 991 | 8 | \$ 73,316 | \$ 6,110 | \$ 3,055 | \$ 2,820 | \$ 1,410 |
| Each Add'l person add | \$ 5,226 | \$ 436 | \$ 218 | \$ 201 | \$ 101 | Each Add'l person add | \$ 7,437 | \$ 620 | \$ 310 | \$ 287 | \$ 144 |

SNAP/TANF/FDPIR Households: Households which currently include children who receive SNAP or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) must complete an application listing the child's name, a SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR case number and the signature of an adult household member, or provide an Eligibility letter from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. Children in the household with the same case number may be included on the same application. Separate applications are required for children in the same household with different case numbers. If the family does not list a SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR case number for all children for whom they are applying, then the application must contain all the information as required for “other households” as described below.

Other Households: Households with incomes the same or below the amount of money listed above for their family size may be eligible for and are urged to apply for free and/or reduced price meals (or free milk). They may do so by filling in the application forms sent home with a letter to parents. Additional copies are available at the principal's office in each school. Applications may be submitted any time during the school year to Liz Colasante, Business Clerk

The information provided on the application will be confidential and will be used for determining eligibility. The names and eligibility status of participants may also be used for the allocation of funds to federal education programs such as Title I and National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), State health or State education programs, provided the State agency or local education agency administers the programs, and for federal, State or local means-tested nutrition programs with eligibility standards comparable to the NSLP. Eligibility information may also be released to programs authorized under the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) or the Child Nutrition Act (CNA). The release of information to any program or entity not specifically authorized by the NSLA will require a written consent statement from the parent or guardian.

The school district does, however, have the right to verify at any time during the school year the information on the application. If a parent does not give the school this information, the child/children will no longer be able to receive free or reduced price meals (free milk).

Foster children may also be eligible for these benefits. A separate application for a foster child is no longer necessary. Foster children may be listed on the family application which must contain the foster child's name, personal use income.

Under the provisions of the policy, the designated official will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with the ruling of the designated official, he/she may make a request either orally or in writing for a hearing to appeal the decision.

Francine A. Bogdanoff, Superintendent whose address is Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf, 40 Frost Mill Road, Mill Neck, NY 11765 has been designated as the Hearing Official. Hearing procedures are outlined in the policy. However, prior to initiating the hearing procedure, the parent or School Food Authority may request a conference to provide an opportunity for the parent and official to discuss the situation, present information, and obtain an explanation of the data submitted in the application or the decisions rendered. The request for a conference shall not in any way prejudice or diminish the right to a fair hearing.

Only complete applications can be approved. This includes complete and accurate information regarding: the SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR case number; the names of all household members; on an income application the social security number of the person who signs the form or an indication that the adult does not have one, and the amount and source of income received by each household member. In addition, the parent or guardian must sign the application form, certifying the information is true and correct.

Nondiscrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited basis will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (PDF), found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities and you wish to file either an EEO or program complaint please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in its administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, athletic and other school administered programs.

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