



## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **WVDE and WVDHHR releases new benefit plan due to COVID-19 for families receiving free/reduced school lunch**

CLARKSBURG, West Virginia -- A new federal benefit will be available through the Families First Act and will benefit households belonging to schools in the state of West Virginia who provide free and reduced lunch.

Four schools in Harrison County currently do not qualify for the federal program's Community Eligibility Provision. The Community Eligibility Provision is the federal guideline that determines if a school shall receive free and reduced lunch. The four schools in Harrison County that do not currently meet the federal guideline for free and reduced lunch are Bridgeport High School, Bridgeport Middle School, Johnson Elementary, and Simpson Elementary. Parents of these schools can qualify to receive benefits from the Families First Act if they have lost income or their financial situation has changed due to COVID-19.

**To parents at Bridgeport High School, Bridgeport Middle School, Johnson Elementary and Simpson Elementary:** WVDE and WVDHHR realizes that many households have experienced a significant loss of income due to COVID-19 business closures. At this time, if you believe your household would now qualify for free/reduced price meals, please complete an application using School Café. This application can be found by visiting [www.schoolcafe.com](http://www.schoolcafe.com).

**NOTE:** If your student already received free/reduced price meals during the school year prior to the COVID-19 closures, you do NOT need to complete another application at this time.

This instruction to visit [www.schoolcafe.com](http://www.schoolcafe.com) is ONLY for households that believe they would now qualify for free/reduced meals.

WVDE and WVDHHR encourages parents who feel their children would now qualify for free and reduced lunch to complete an application as soon as possible because federal benefit programs becoming available due to COVID-19 (like the Families First Act) may be tied to your child's free/reduced price meal status.

If at any time your situation changes, please update your meal pricing application in School Café or contact the Harrison County Board of Education.