

## Austin parents can apply early for student assistance for books, meals

Written by Marty Randall

Wednesday, 23 July 2008 00:00 - Last Updated Wednesday, 23 July 2008 14:06

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? Parents of Austin schoolchildren can apply for textbook fee assistance and for free or reduced price meals for their children on both Thursday, July 24, and on Wednesday, July 30.

On July 24, hours will be from 1 to 6 p.m. in the Austin Elementary School cafeteria. On July 30, hours will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the elementary cafeteria.

Both sign-up are for students of all ages. Parking will be available in the elementary lot to the south of Rigel Gymnasium. The access road can be found off U.S. Highway 31 South just past the old middle school building.

Applicants will need to bring with them the following information in order to have their applications processed correctly:

?Food Stamp number or TANF case number, if applicable. The number found on the Hoosier Works Card will not be accepted. If the parent is unsure of his/her Food Stamp or TANF case number, the family's case worker should be contacted to obtain the correct number before coming to this sign-up.

If no Food Stamp or TANF numbers are applicable, then the following will be needed:

?Name of each household member.

?Total income of each household member. Income may be proved through check stubs, etc.

?Applicant's social security number.

Those who think their children may qualify are urged to attend the July 30 session. When parents apply for assistance before the school year begins, staff members have enough time to process each application properly and ensure that each child receives the benefits for which he or she qualifies.

Households which currently receive Food Stamps or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) for their children may have been direct certified. These families will need to complete an application for assistance only if they do not receive a notice from the school corporation informing them that they will be provided free meals and textbooks unless they notify the school corporation that they choose to decline the benefits.

With all buses running their regular schedules, classes will begin at all Austin schools on Thursday, August 7, at 8:20 a.m., and lunch will be served that day, so it is essential that students be registered properly for assistance if they are to receive their books and meals on that first day. Breakfast and lunch will be served starting Friday, August 8.

Kindergarten children will be meeting their teachers on August 7 but will not stay for meals or classes. Their regular class schedules will begin on Friday, August 8.

Preschool children will be meeting their teachers on August 8 but will not stay for meals or classes. Their regular class schedules will begin on Tuesday, August 12. They will be advised during their visit on August 8 whether they will be attending morning or afternoon classes.

Cost for meals is the same as last year. Breakfast is 85 cents per day for children in grades kindergarten to five and \$1 per day for grades six to 12. Lunch is \$1.35 per day for preschoolers and kindergartners through grade five and \$1.60 per day for grades six to 12. Reduced price breakfast will cost students 30 cents. Reduced price lunch is 40 cents a day.

If applications for meal assistance are not received prior to the first day of school, parents will be responsible for paying any meal charges incurred.

Students are expected to bring their meal money and book rental fees on August 7 if they have not been paid previously to this first day of school.

Scott County School District 1 is committed to equal opportunity. It is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex, handicapping conditions or national origin, including limited English proficiency in any employment

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opportunity. No person is excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of or otherwise subject to unlawful discrimination on such basis under any educational program or student activity.

The Title 9 and 504 Section coordinator is Berley Goodin, Superintendent of Schools. He can be reached by calling 1-812-794-8750 or by writing to P.O. Box 9, Austin, IN 47102.