

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Families that have children attending a public school district can apply for free or reduced price school meals through the National School Lunch Program online using the Internet! This can be done using COMPASS (**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Access to Social Services**). COMPASS allows Pennsylvanian's to apply for social service programs, such as Food Stamps (FS), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Energy Assistance, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medicaid, and Family Works, online. Families can use COMPASS to apply for free or reduced price school meals only, or they can apply for other services at the same time (FS, TANF, CHIP, etc.)

If you should choose to use COMPASS, the application will be customized based on the applicant's program selections and responses to questions within the form. COMPASS will automatically route the application to the correct social service agency when the applicant submits the application. COMPASS will automatically determine the applicant's eligibility for the National School Meals Program.

Since your child attends Tunkhannock Area School District, which is a public school district, you can apply for free or reduced price meals online by going to the COMPASS website at www.compass.state.pa.us or you can continue to use the paper "Household Meal Benefit Applications" if you prefer. **If you apply for free or reduced price school meals through COMPASS, you do not need to submit a paper application.**

COMPASS is user friendly. Simply go to www.compass.state.pa.us and try using the online questionnaire to determine which social services the members of your household may be eligible to receive. If you are experiencing difficulty in applying for benefits the COMPASS website is equipped with contact information for their helpdesk site.

Thank You
Jackie Shaver