

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Beginning July 1, 2008, families can now apply for free or reduced price school meals through the National School Lunch Program online using the Internet! This can be done using **COMPASS**. **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), etc., 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, etc.).

Since your child attends Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School, you can apply for free or reduced price school 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 Application" if you prefer.

Once you access **COMPASS**, select **Apply for Benefits**. Parents will select the programs they wish to apply for and be directed through a series of questions regarding those programs. Please enter **Columbia**, the county of the school, when you apply. This may not necessarily be your home county. Select Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School as the school your child attends.

Once the questions have been completed, the **COMPASS** system will direct your information to each appropriate program office and the school you selected will receive the Household Meal Benefit Application. The school will notify you if you are eligible for free or reduced price meals.

If you apply for free or reduced price school meals through **COMPASS**, you **do not** need to submit a paper application.

Sincerely,

Laurel Archey
School Nurse

Holly A. Diltz
Child Accounting Specialist