Dear Maple Run Community:

In May 2022, Vermont implemented Universal School Meals for the 2022-2023 school year. This enables schools to offer free breakfast and lunch to all students, regardless of household income.

However, even though meals are now free to all students, our schools still need to gather household income data. This data helps Vermont access the maximum possible federal dollars for school meals, which will reduce the burden on Vermont taxpayers.

But it's about more than meals. Household income data is needed to ensure that millions in federal education dollars continue to flow to Vermont to support educational benefits and program supports and to make sure that these funds are fairly distributed across our state. Some examples of uses of this funding are:

- Federal funding for schools' reading, math and other educational programs,
- Afterschool and summer program resources,
- Broadband access programs,
- Special education,
- And many more.

This information is also needed for required reporting that accompanies the approximately $123 million in federal education funding the state receives each year. When you fill out the form, you help us make sure Vermont's information is accurate and complete.

We need your help! Every family in our school community needs to fill out the form to help create a brighter and more equitable future for all of Vermont's students. Even if you didn't fill out these forms in the past, doing so now will help Vermont maintain an affordable Universal School Meals program and continue to receive millions in essential federal education dollars.

Please complete the 2022-2023 Application for Free & Reduced Price School Meals - VT AOE for your household. This form should only take a few minutes to fill out. Please reach out to your school if you have any questions.

Bellows Free Academy	(802) 527-6555
Fairfield Center School	(802) 827-6639
St. Albans City School	(802) 527-0565
St. Albans Town Educational Center	(802) 527-7191

Thank you for taking the time to help our schools!