

## **2025–2026 School Year**

*(Currently free meals are only approved through September 30th)*

### **Dear Parents and Guardians,**

We need your help to ensure Anchor Bay Schools continue to receive critical state and federal funding for education programs that support all students.

**Please take a moment to complete and return the attached Education Benefits Form to your student's school. If possible, please complete online at <https://anchorbay.familyportal.cloud> .**

The Education Benefits Form collects important financial information used only to determine our school district's eligibility for supplemental funding. **Without this information, Anchor Bay could lose significant funding** that helps provide essential programs and services.

### **Why is this important?**

These funds support a wide range of student programs, including but not limited to:

- Instructional staff (e.g., Reading Interventionists, Math Tutors, Academic & Behavior Aides)
- Teaching supplies and materials
- School counselors and social workers
- School nurses
- Professional development for staff
- Parent and community engagement events and materials
- Classroom and student technology

### **Why is Anchor Bay requesting financial information?**

The total number of eligible students from submitted forms determines the amount of funding our schools receive. **The more forms we receive, the more funding we may qualify for.**

### **What do I need to do?**

Complete the attached Education Benefits Form and return it to your school office as soon as possible.

### **How will this information be protected?**

In keeping with current practices, all student and family information related to food service and financial status will be protected through secure data management systems that comply with **federal and state privacy laws, including FERPA** (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) and local policies. Only authorized personnel can access this information, which is stored

securely—digitally and physically. Staff are trained regularly on data privacy protocols to ensure confidentiality.

### **What else might my child or family qualify for?**

Based on the information you provide, your student or household **may also be eligible for additional support**, such as:

- Reduced or waived "Pay to Play" or extracurricular activity fees
- Food assistance programs
- Support for field trips
- Help with school supplies, fees, or testing costs
- Holiday support programs
- Assistance with cable or internet services

If you have any questions or need assistance completing the form, please contact **our Food Service Office at 586-598-7663**.

Thank you for supporting our students and schools!