

Free and Reduced-Price School Meal Applications

School Meals = Good Nutrition

Students who eat school meals benefit from improved health outcomes, better test scores, fewer school absences, and fewer behavioral referrals. Applying for free or reduced-price school meals can help your student access nutritious breakfasts and lunches at school and minimize school meal debt.

Completing the Form: More than Meals

Filling out an application helps your child get healthy meals at school each day. Plus, every application submitted helps your school unlock federal and state funding for resources that support all students in the district, such as books, teachers, counselors, educational programs, technology, and other classroom essentials.

Plus, if you qualify for free or reduced-price meals, you may also qualify for other reduced fees across the district and in the community. Check with your school to learn more!

We have never needed an application in the past. Why do we need to do one now?

Due to recent federal legislation, you may have seen some changes with your SNAP or Medicaid case. New guidelines in these programs have unfortunately resulted in some families losing access to SNAP, which also means your student will no longer automatically receive free meals. However, your child may still be eligible for free or reduced-price meals by submitting an application.

Eligibility

Students may be eligible for free or reduced-price school meals through several avenues. If your family already participates in SNAP, TAF, or some Medicaid programs, your student will be automatically eligible for free meals: no application needed!

Similarly, students who may be homeless, migrant, in foster care, or in Head Start are also automatically eligible for free meals and do not need to complete an application.

Other students are in households that are eligible based on their income. Check out the chart below to see if you are eligible. If you are, please consider completing an application!

Income Eligibility Guidelines for 2026-2027

	Reduced-Price Meals (185% FPL)		Free Meals (130% FPL)	
Household Size	Annual Income	Monthly Income	Annual Income	Monthly Income
1	\$29,526	\$2,461	\$20,748	\$1,729
2	\$40,034	\$3,337	\$28,132	\$2,345
3	\$50,542	\$4,212	\$35,516	\$2,960
4	\$61,050	\$5,088	\$42,900	\$3,575
5	\$71,558	\$5,964	\$50,284	\$4,191
6	\$82,066	\$6,839	\$57,668	\$4,806
7	\$92,574	\$7,715	\$65,052	\$5,421
8	\$103,082	\$8,591	\$72,436	\$6,037
For each additional family member, add:	\$10,508	\$876	\$7,384	\$616

Understand the Application Process

- Check with your school office for the most up-to-date information on the free and reduced-price meal application, how to submit the form online or on paper, and any questions you may have.
- While many families complete these forms at enrollment, you can submit an application at any time throughout the school year if your situation changes.
- Here's what you will need for the application:
 - Names of student(s) and all household members
 - The last four digits of the Social Security number of the adult who signs the application, or an indication that the adult does not have a Social Security number (Note: you are eligible to apply even if you do not have a Social Security Number)
 - Income earned by children
 - Each adult's gross monthly income and the source of income. Income may include earnings from work, public assistance, child support, alimony, pension, retirement, or other sources. Gross income refers to the total amount received before taxes or deductions.
 - Signature
- Your school will collect and review your application. They may ask for additional verification if any information is incomplete.
- The school must notify you within 10 days to let you know whether the student will receive meals at the free, reduced-price, or full paid rate.
- Your student's information and identity will remain confidential.