

COMMON QUESTIONS ON FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEAL APPLICATIONS

I get WIC or Medical Assistance. Can my children get free school meals? No, WIC or Medical Assistance do not automatically qualify for free meals and medical assistance case numbers can not be used for free and reduced-price qualification. Please fill out an application with your household income as children may be eligible for free or reduced-price school meals depending on household gross income and household size.

Who should I include as household members? Include yourself and all other people living in the household and sharing income and expenses, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends).

May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen? Yes. You or your children do not have to be U.S. citizens for your children to qualify for free or reduced-price school meals.

What if my income is not always the same? List the amount that you normally get. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get overtime only sometimes. For seasonal work, write in the total annual gross income.

Will the income information or case number I give be checked? It may be as some participants are randomly chosen for verification each year. If you are chosen we will notify you.

How will the information be kept? All information you provide on the form, and your child's approval for meal benefits, will be protected as private and confidential data. For more information see the back page of the application for free and reduced-price meals (Application for Educational Benefits).

If I don't qualify now, may I apply later? Yes. Please complete an application at any time if your income goes down, your household size goes up, or you start getting SNAP, MFIP or FDPIR benefits.

How to Complete the Application for Educational Benefits

Complete the Application for Educational Benefits form for school year 2021-22 if any of the following applies to your household:

- Any household member currently participates in the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) **OR**
- The household includes one or more foster children (a welfare agency or court has legal responsibility for the child) **OR**
- The total income of household members is within the guidelines shown below (**gross earnings before deductions**, not net or take-home pay). Do not include as income: foster care payments, federal education benefits, MFIP payments, or value of assistance received from SNAP, WIC, or FDPIR. Military: Do not include combat pay or assistance from the Military Privatized Housing Initiative. Indicate income based on how often pay is received (weekly, every 2 weeks, twice a month or monthly). Self-employment income is your Net Income from previous year's Schedule C of 1040, divide by 12 and report as monthly income.
- The income guidelines are effective from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

2021-22 Maximum Total Income for Free or Reduced-Price Meals

2021-22 Household Size	Free Meals		Reduced Meals	
	Annual Guideline	Monthly Guideline	Annual Guideline	Monthly Guideline
1	\$ 16,744	\$ 1,396	\$ 23,828	\$ 1,986
2	\$ 22,646	\$ 1,888	\$ 32,227	\$ 2,686
3	\$ 28,548	\$ 2,379	\$ 40,626	\$ 3,386
4	\$ 34,450	\$ 2,871	\$ 49,025	\$ 4,086
5	\$ 40,352	\$ 3,363	\$ 57,424	\$ 4,786
6	\$ 46,254	\$ 3,855	\$ 65,823	\$ 5,486
7	\$ 52,156	\$ 4,347	\$ 74,222	\$ 6,186
8	\$ 58,058	\$ 4,839	\$ 82,621	\$ 6,886
For each add'l add	\$ 5,902	\$ 492	\$ 8,399	\$ 700