

National Breakfast and Lunch Program Changes

Many families will see changes in school meals this fall. Recently we mailed out an NLSP breakfast and Lunch meal application to every parent of enrolled students. Schools had some flexibilities during COVID so they could serve all kids free meals. Some of those options expired, so many schools can't serve all meals free anymore. Instead, families will do what they did before COVID. Schools will take applications and use family income to qualify kids for free, reduce-price, or paid meals.

There are still many ways children can get free meals. Children are automatically eligible for free meals if anyone in their household gets SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR benefits. In some states, families with Medicaid may also qualify, depending on their income. You can also fill out an application to qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, runaway youth, or children of migrant workers all qualify for free school meals when their household fills out an application. Children can also qualify for free or reduced-price meals through an application if their household's income is under a certain limit. Schools will help you understand if you qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on the information you put on their school meal application.

For example, a child in a family of four with a yearly income of \$51,338 or less would qualify for reduced-price meals. Families that believe their income is under the limit should fill out an application for free or reduced-price meals through their school.

Household Size	Maximum Annual Household Income for Reduced Price Meals, School Year 2022-23*
1	\$25,142
2	\$33,874
3	\$42,606
4	\$51,338
5	\$60,070
6	\$68,802
7	\$77,534
8	\$86,266
For each additional family member, add	\$4,720

Children who do not qualify for free or reduced-price meals may pay full price for a healthy breakfast or lunch at school. Please return your application as soon as possible for a chance to win a Generation 7 IPAD. If you have any questions or need help completing the application please contact us at 928 859-3339.