



Public Notice

National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program and Child and Adult Care Food Program

The Minnesota Department of Education has announced the household income guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for free and reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program. The income guidelines are effective from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

Contact your school, childcare center, family childcare home or adult care center to find out whether it participates in these programs.

Participating schools and childcare centers that charge separately for meals will provide a form upon request to apply for free or reduced-price meals. Most participating centers and all participating family childcare homes provide meals to all enrolled participants without any separate charge.

At schools and centers that charge separately for meals, households with incomes that are less than or equal to the guidelines for free meals qualify for free meals. Households with incomes that are greater than the guidelines for free meals, but less than or equal to the guidelines for reduced-price meals, qualify for reduced-price meals.

Family Size	Free Meals Monthly Income up to:	Reduced-Price Meals Monthly Income up to:
1	1,632	2,322
2	2,215	3,152
3	2,798	3,981
4	3,380	4,810
5	3,963	5,640
6	4,546	6,469
7	5,129	7,299
8	5,712	8,128
Add for each additional person	583	830

An application for free or reduced-price meals can be approved if it contains documentation of qualifying household income, or documentation of current participation in the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) or that indicates the student is placed in foster care. Other categories in which children qualify for free or reduced-price meals that do not involve an application are:

- Migrant;
- Homeless;
- Runaway;
- A foster child;
- Enrolled in Head Start or an eligible pre-kindergarten program; or
- Medicaid recipient* if meeting income guidelines.

*Medicaid case number is not a valid qualifier for free or reduced-price meals on an application for education benefits. Free or reduced-price meal benefit via a Medicaid case number must be assigned by direct certification only. Qualifying by Medicaid via direct certification is a pilot project for the 2024-2025 school year and is not guaranteed for future years.

Participating schools and centers accept applications for free or reduced-price meals at any time during the year. A household may qualify for free or reduced-price meals due to a temporary loss of income during the year, such as a period of unemployment. An appeal procedure is available for households whose applications are denied. Information supplied on an application for free or reduced-price meals may be verified at any time.

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