

FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEALS

Students may qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on household size and income. They may also qualify if they are receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA), or Medicaid benefits. Families may apply for meal benefits by completing an Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals for the current school year. Beginning school year 2022-2023, students who qualify for reduced-price meals will not be charged that cost - meaning that reduced-price students will eat for free!

Apply online NOW at [MySchoolApps.com](https://www.myschoolapps.com) (Translations available) Click [here](#) for an English video tutorial. Click [here](#) for a Spanish video tutorial.

Federal eligibility guidelines change each school year; therefore a new application must be submitted each school year. All students in the family should be listed on one household application. A notice will be mailed home to each student if you are approved for meal benefits or do not qualify for meal benefits. **Please keep this important document for your records and use throughout the school year.** Families may apply for meal benefits at any time during the school year.

Households that are unable to apply online should contact their school or the Division of Food and Nutrition Services at [240-740-7400](tel:240-740-7400).

Please click [here](#) to apply online.

Household Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals 2022-23

Online Applications are available now for Free and Reduced Meals for the 2022-2023 school year. If you have any questions, please call [240-740-7400](tel:240-740-7400).

Meal benefit eligibility from last school year will remain current only through the first 30 scheduled school days OR until a 2022-2023 application is processed.

- **FOR FASTER PROCESSING APPLY ONLINE.** Households who apply online should not submit a paper application.
- Please complete paper applications in black ink (not pencil).
- If you ARE applying for free or reduced-price meals, first, last name, and middle initial are required.
- Please provide birth date, grade, and school to expedite processing.
- Use ONE application for ALL students in the household—including Pre-K, kindergarten, and foster—even if they attend different schools.
- If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or runaway, please call your child's school or contact the MCPS Homeless liaison at [240-740-4511](tel:240-740-4511).

Montgomery County Public Schools serve breakfast and lunch every school day. If your total household income is the same or less than the amounts on the Income Chart below, your child may qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

The following students may be eligible for free or reduced-priced meals:

- Students in households participating in Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC)

The following students qualify for free meals:

- Foster children
- Students certified as homeless or runaway
- Students enrolled in the Migrant Education program
- Students enrolled in the Head Start program
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA), or Medicaid.

Income Guidelines 2022-23

Household Size	Annually	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$25,142	\$2,096	\$484
2	\$33,874	\$2,823	\$652
3	\$42,606	\$3,551	\$820

4	\$51,338	\$4,279	\$988
5	\$60,070	\$5,006	\$1,156
6	\$68,802	\$5,734	\$1,324
7	\$77,534	\$6,462	\$1,492
8	\$86,266	\$7,189	\$1,659
for each additional family member, add	+\$8,732	+\$728	+\$168

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can I contact the Division of Food and Nutrition Services to discuss the Free and Reduced-Price Meals program?

The main phone number for the Division of Food and Nutrition Services is [240-740-7400](tel:240-740-7400). This phone number is also for calls related to the Free and Reduced Price Meals program. You may also contact us via email at DFNSOffice@mcpsmd.org.

I would like to apply for the meals program, but am concerned that my child may get embarrassed if the teachers or other students learn that we need assistance. How can this be avoided?

The Division of Food and Nutrition is charged with keeping the eligibility of each student confidential. We may not disclose individual student eligibility to anyone except the students' parents, guardians, or cafeteria managers. School lunch lines are designed to maintain confidentiality by using student PINs. By using this system, there is no way for any student to know if a classmate's lunch account is being charged or if the student is receiving a free meal.

My child was eligible for free meals last school year. Do I need to apply again?

Yes, households must apply every year to determine if they are eligible for the FARMS program. Federal income guidelines change each year, and most household situations likely change each year.

To avoid interruption in meal benefits while new applications are processed, student eligibility is carried over temporarily from the previous school year until the new application can be processed in September of the new school year. Once the new application is processed, the eligibility that is determined will be in effect.

How do I apply?

[For Faster Processing Apply online now!](#)

Students/families may request a paper application at any MCPS school.

Can I submit just one application for all my children?

Yes. Currently, we are using a family/household application, therefore all children must be listed on one application.

[For faster processing, apply online!](#)

If a paper application is filled out, it can be returned to any MCPS school or returned directly to the Division of Food and Nutrition Services in person or via U.S. Mail for processing.

The information provided online or via paper application is entered into a meal application system and an Action-Taken Notice is printed and mailed to the address of record for the student. This notifies the families/ households of their eligibility status. **Please keep this important document for your records and use throughout the school year.**

Address to return completed meal application forms directly:

Division of Food and Nutrition Services
Montgomery County Public Schools
8401 Turkey Thicket Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Students/families can apply at any time during the school year.

Why was my child's application determined to be not eligible for the program?

Applications are evaluated solely on the number of household members and gross income—no other circumstances can be considered. If you believe your gross income (amount before deductions) is at or less than the maximum income limits for your household size that is listed on the back of the application, you should contact the Division of Food and Nutrition Services to be certain that you have completed your application correctly.

My family situation has changed, can I reapply to the program?

Yes. Families whose household situations change may reapply at any time during the school year.

I lost my copy of the eligibility notice (Action-Taken Notice) I received and would like a copy so that I can apply for other benefits.

Parents/guardians are asked to retain the Action-Taken Notices (ATN) for use throughout the school year. Requests for duplicate ATNs must be requested from the Food Services office by calling [240-740-7400](tel:240-740-7400). Due to the confidential meal benefit information included, ATNs **may not** be faxed or emailed. **Duplicate copies will be mailed to the student address on file.**

Families seeking other benefits may also refer to the organizations to which they are applying to the income guidelines that are on our website or on the second page of the application. Parents/guardians would need to disclose the number of household members and gross income so that the organization could evaluate their eligibility.