

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Sylvania Schools offers healthy meals every school day!! Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

### Who can get FREE or REDUCED-PRICE meals?

- All children in households receiving benefits from Ohio SNAP, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) or Ohio TANF, are eligible for free meals.
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- Children may receive free or reduced-price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES											
HOUSEHOLD SIZE	FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES	Effective from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025									
		REDUCED PRICE MEALS - 186 %					FREE MEALS - 130 %				
		ANNUAL	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY
<b>48 CONTIGUOUS STATES, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, GUAM, AND TERRITORIES</b>											
1 .....	15,080	27,861	2,322	1,161	1,072	536	19,578	1,632	816	753	377
2 .....	20,440	37,814	3,152	1,576	1,455	728	26,572	2,215	1,108	1,022	511
3 .....	25,820	47,767	3,981	1,991	1,838	919	33,566	2,798	1,399	1,291	646
4 .....	31,200	57,720	4,810	2,405	2,220	1,110	40,560	3,380	1,690	1,560	780
5 .....	36,580	67,673	5,640	2,820	2,603	1,302	47,554	3,963	1,982	1,829	915
6 .....	41,960	77,626	6,469	3,235	2,985	1,493	54,548	4,546	2,273	2,098	1,049
7 .....	47,340	87,579	7,299	3,650	3,369	1,685	61,542	5,129	2,565	2,367	1,184
8 .....	52,720	97,532	8,128	4,064	3,752	1,876	68,536	5,712	2,866	2,636	1,318
For each add'l family member, add	5,360	9,653	830	415	363	192	6,994	583	292	269	135
<b>ALASKA</b>											
1 .....	18,810	34,799	2,900	1,450	1,339	670	24,453	2,038	1,019	941	471
2 .....	25,540	47,249	3,938	1,969	1,818	909	33,202	2,767	1,384	1,277	639
3 .....	32,270	59,700	4,975	2,488	2,297	1,149	41,951	3,496	1,748	1,614	807
4 .....	39,000	72,150	6,013	3,007	2,775	1,388	50,700	4,225	2,113	1,950	975
5 .....	45,730	84,601	7,051	3,526	3,254	1,627	59,449	4,955	2,478	2,287	1,144
6 .....	52,460	97,051	8,088	4,044	3,733	1,867	68,198	5,684	2,842	2,623	1,312
7 .....	59,190	109,502	9,128	4,563	4,212	2,108	76,947	6,413	3,207	2,960	1,480
8 .....	65,920	121,952	10,163	5,082	4,691	2,346	85,696	7,142	3,571	3,296	1,648
For each add'l family member, add	6,730	12,451	1,038	519	479	240	8,749	730	365	337	169
<b>HAWAII</b>											
1 .....	17,310	32,024	2,669	1,335	1,232	616	22,503	1,876	938	866	433
2 .....	23,500	43,475	3,623	1,812	1,673	837	30,550	2,546	1,273	1,175	588
3 .....	29,690	54,927	4,578	2,289	2,113	1,057	38,597	3,217	1,609	1,485	743
4 .....	35,880	66,378	5,532	2,766	2,553	1,277	46,644	3,887	1,944	1,794	897
5 .....	42,070	77,830	6,486	3,243	2,994	1,497	54,691	4,558	2,279	2,104	1,052
6 .....	48,260	89,281	7,441	3,721	3,434	1,717	62,738	5,229	2,615	2,413	1,207
7 .....	54,450	100,733	8,395	4,198	3,875	1,938	70,785	5,899	2,950	2,723	1,362
8 .....	60,640	112,184	9,349	4,675	4,315	2,158	78,832	6,570	3,285	3,032	1,516
For each add'l family member, add	6,190	11,452	955	478	441	221	8,047	671	336	310	155

### HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY?

Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail our Student Services office at: 419-824-8583

### DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD?

No. Fill out one Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Application for all Sylvania School district students in your household.

### SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS for THIS SCHOOL YEAR?

No, but please **read the email you received carefully** and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact Student Nutrition, Sylvania Schools, at 419-824-8655 or

[tmay@sylvaniaschools.org](mailto:tmay@sylvaniaschools.org).

### DO I APPLY ONLINE?

**Yes!** Applying online is a faster, more secure way to apply. Visit [www.sylvaniaschools.org](http://www.sylvaniaschools.org) click on Our District and then click on the Student Nutrition link and select the hyperlink for the online application to begin the online application process.

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Contact, Student Nutrition, 419-824-8655 [tmay@sylvaniaschools.org](mailto:tmay@sylvaniaschools.org) if you have any questions about, or need help with, the online application process.

### MY APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR, SHOULD I FILL OUT A NEW APPLICATION FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR?

**Yes!!** Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first 30 days of the next school year.

**Note: Temporary status expiration date for the 2023-2024 school year application is: October 1, 2024**

You must fill out a new application for every new school year. If you do not fill out a new application and do not receive approval by the school district that your student/students are eligible for free or reduced priced meals, your child will be **charged the full price for all meals**. School meals are the parent/guardian financial responsibility.

### I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?

Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. You must fill out an online application.

### WILL THE INFORMATION FROM MY APPLICATION BE CHECKED FOR ACCURACY?

**Yes.** We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.

### IF I DO NOT QUALIFY NOW, WILL I BE ABLE TO APPLY LATER?

**Yes**, you may apply at **any** time during the school year but prior to the last month of the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced-price meals if there is a reduction in household income. **When in doubt...fill it out!**

### WHAT IF I DISAGREE ON THE DECISION OF AWARDING BENEFITS?

You should talk to Student Nutrition office officials. You also may ask for a hearing by writing or emailing:

Ray Holston Student Nutrition Supervisor, Sylvania Schools, 7400 Cougar Lane, Sylvania Ohio 43560, 419-824-8511, [rholston@sylvaniaschools.org](mailto:rholston@sylvaniaschools.org)

### MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSE IS NOT A CITIZEN?

**Yes.** You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced-price meals.

### WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT?

Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application, or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 (zero) in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.

### WE ARE IN THE MILITARY; DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY?

Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.

### MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP, ARE THERE OTHER WAYS TO GET HELP?

To find out how to apply for assistance benefits by contacting your local assistance office or call Ohio Job and Family Services at 1-866-244-0071.

For the 2024-25 school year, the price of reduced and paid lunches continues this year as follows:

Grades	Breakfast	Lunch
K-5	\$2.25	\$3.30
6-8	\$2.25	\$3.50
9-12	\$2.25	\$3.50
Reduced Price Students, All Grades	\$0.30	\$0.40

If you have other questions or need help, feel free to reach out to myself or Tami May, Student Nutrition Office Secretary at 419-824-8655 or email: [tmay@sylvaniaschools.org](mailto:tmay@sylvaniaschools.org)

Ray Holston, Student Nutrition Director at Ph: 419-824-8511 or email me at: [rholston@sylvaniaschools.org](mailto:rholston@sylvaniaschools.org)

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