

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											
Effective from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027											
HOUSEHOLD SIZE	FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES	REDUCED PRICE MEALS = 185%			FREE MEALS = 130%						
		ANNUAL	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY
48 CONTIGUOUS STATES, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, GUAM, AND TERRITORIES											
1	15,960	29,526	2,461	1,231	1,136	568	20,748	1,729	865	798	399
2	21,640	40,034	3,337	1,669	1,540	770	28,132	2,345	1,173	1,082	541
3	27,320	50,542	4,212	2,106	1,944	972	35,516	2,960	1,480	1,366	683
4	33,000	61,050	5,088	2,544	2,349	1,175	42,900	3,575	1,788	1,650	825
5	38,680	71,558	5,964	2,982	2,753	1,377	50,284	4,191	2,096	1,934	967
6	44,360	82,066	6,839	3,420	3,157	1,579	57,668	4,806	2,403	2,218	1,109
7	50,040	92,574	7,715	3,858	3,561	1,781	65,052	5,421	2,711	2,502	1,251
8	55,720	103,082	8,591	4,296	3,965	1,983	72,436	6,037	3,019	2,786	1,393
For each additional family member, add	5,680	10,508	876	438	405	203	7,384	616	308	284	142
ALASKA											
1	19,950	36,908	3,076	1,538	1,420	710	25,935	2,162	1,081	998	499
2	27,050	50,043	4,171	2,086	1,925	963	35,165	2,931	1,466	1,353	677
3	34,150	63,178	5,265	2,633	2,430	1,215	44,395	3,700	1,850	1,708	854
4	41,250	76,313	6,360	3,180	2,936	1,468	53,625	4,469	2,235	2,063	1,032
5	48,350	89,448	7,454	3,727	3,441	1,721	62,855	5,238	2,619	2,418	1,209
6	55,450	102,583	8,549	4,275	3,946	1,973	72,085	6,008	3,004	2,773	1,387
7	62,550	115,718	9,644	4,822	4,451	2,226	81,315	6,777	3,389	3,128	1,564
8	69,650	128,853	10,738	5,369	4,956	2,478	90,545	7,546	3,773	3,483	1,742
For each additional family member, add	7,100	13,135	1,095	548	506	253	9,230	770	385	355	178
HAWAII											
1	18,360	33,966	2,831	1,416	1,307	654	23,868	1,989	995	918	459
2	24,890	46,047	3,838	1,919	1,772	886	32,357	2,697	1,349	1,245	623
3	31,420	58,127	4,844	2,422	2,236	1,118	40,846	3,404	1,702	1,571	786
4	37,950	70,208	5,851	2,926	2,701	1,351	49,335	4,112	2,056	1,898	949
5	44,480	82,288	6,858	3,429	3,165	1,583	57,824	4,819	2,410	2,224	1,112
6	51,010	94,369	7,865	3,933	3,630	1,815	66,313	5,527	2,764	2,551	1,276
7	57,540	106,449	8,871	4,436	4,095	2,048	74,802	6,234	3,117	2,877	1,439
8	64,070	118,530	9,878	4,939	4,559	2,280	83,291	6,941	3,471	3,204	1,602
For each additional family member, add	6,530	12,081	1,007	504	465	233	8,489	708	354	327	164

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

ldietrich@sylvaniaschools.org.

DO I APPLY ONLINE?

Yes! Applying online is a faster, more secure way to apply. Visit 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.

Contact, Student Nutrition, 419-824-8655 ldietrich@sylvaniaschools.org if you have any questions about, or need help with, the online application process.

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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 2026-2027 school year application is: **September 29, 2026**

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:

Joe Shamy Student Nutrition Supervisor, Sylvania Schools, 7400 Cougar Lane, Sylvania Ohio 43560, 419-824-, jshamy@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 pays 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 2026-2027 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 Laurie Dietrich, Student Nutrition Office Secretary at 419-824-8655 or email: ldietrich@sylvaniaschools.org

Joe Shamy, Student Nutrition Supervisor at Ph: 419-824- or email me at: jshamy@sylvaniaschools.org

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