

For more information about applying for free and reduced-price meals, please contact your child's school or call the New York State Education Department at (518) 473-8781.

To learn more about school meal programs, visit [SchoolMealsHubNY.org](https://www.schoolmeals.org).

Hunger Solutions New York is a statewide, private, non-profit organization dedicated to alleviating hunger for residents of New York State.



[FoodHelpNY.org](https://www.FoodHelpNY.org)
[SummerMealsNY.org](https://www.SummerMealsNY.org)
[ChildcareMealsNY.org](https://www.ChildcareMealsNY.org)
[SchoolMealsHubNY.org](https://www.SchoolMealsHubNY.org)
[AfterschoolMealsNY.org](https://www.AfterschoolMealsNY.org)
[HungerSolutionsNY.org](https://www.HungerSolutionsNY.org)

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Your child may be able to eat free or reduced-price school meals!

Each school day, your child's school serves healthy meals to students.

School meals:

- ✓ Must meet nutrition standards, so they're always balanced and healthy
- ✓ Help you save money and stretch your food budget
- ✓ Give your child energy to learn and stay healthy
- ✓ Help your child focus on school work and perform better on tests

Find out if your child may be eligible for the 2018-19 school year.

The Basics

WHO CAN EAT: All students

COST: Meal prices are based on household income. Some children pay a full price, set by the school district. If a household's total income is below certain amounts, children can eat meals for free or at a reduced price, with an approved application.

Reduced-price school meals cost 25¢.

New York City (NYC) public schools offer free breakfast to *all* students. Those who qualify for reduced-price meals also receive free lunch.

Connect with your school to learn more about pricing. Many schools outside of NYC offer free school meals to all students.

CONFIDENTIALITY: No staff, teachers or other students are told which students get free or reduced-price meals. All information provided on applications is confidential.

How and When to Apply

Contact your child's school for a free and reduced-price meal application.

It's best to submit the application at the beginning of the school year, but it can be done at **any time** during the school year.

If, at any point during the school year, your income decreases, someone in your household starts receiving benefits like SNAP or TANF, or your household size changes, you can apply for free or reduced-price school meals.

One application lasts the entire school year; families need to reapply each school year.

Applications must be signed by an adult household member and include the last four digits of their social security number, if they have one. If they don't, the "none" box should be checked on the application. The child can still qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

Some households apply differently, or not at all.

Households that get SNAP benefits:

Typically, no application is needed. However, if the students in your household are not automatically signed up for free meals by the school, you should either:

- submit a signed application with your SNAP case number, **or**
- submit the household's eligibility letter you received from NYS Education Department.

Households that get TANF or FDPIR benefits:

Submit a signed application with your case number.

Households that include migrant, homeless, runaway, or foster children:

Typically, no application is required. However, households with foster children can submit an application with the "Foster Child" box checked. Contact the school for details.

Qualifying for Free or Reduced-Price Meals

Children can qualify for free meals if they are in a household that falls into any of the following categories:

- receives SNAP (food stamp) benefits
- certain Medicaid recipients with low incomes that are identified by the NYS Education Department*
- receives Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) benefits
- has an income below a certain amount (see Income Limit Chart to the right)

In addition, migrant, homeless, runaway, or foster children qualify for free meals.

Those with a moderate household income may qualify for reduced-price meals. If your household's monthly and yearly income is at or below the dollar amounts listed next to your household's size in this chart (right), your child may be eligible. Note: An approved school meal application is required.

*Medicaid households can **only** be automatically qualified for free school meals if they are identified by the school. Schools **cannot** qualify a child for free meals based on proof of Medicaid benefits. Families can still submit an application based on income.

2018-2019 Income Limits for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals

Household Size	Free Eligibility		Reduced-Price Eligibility	
	Monthly Income	Yearly Income	Monthly Income	Yearly Income
1	\$1,316	\$15,782	\$1,872	\$ 22,459
2	1,784	21,398	2,538	30,451
3	2,252	27,014	3,204	38,443
4	2,720	32,630	3,870	46,435
5	3,188	38,246	4,536	54,427
6	3,656	43,862	5,202	62,419
For each additional household member, add:	\$ 468	\$ 5,616	\$666	\$ 7,992