



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED-PRICED SCHOOL MEALS (ELEMENTARY)

Dear Parents/Guardians/Caretakers of Elementary School Students:

Children need healthy meals to learn. If food insecurity is a challenge for your family, **your children may qualify for free or reduced (\$3.96 per day) price lunch.** Although the elementary schools do not have an active school lunch option at this time, qualifying individuals can receive a meal prepared at the Junior/Senior High School that can be delivered to the respective elementary school daily. The meal would consist of a bagged cold sandwich, fruit, vegetable, and milk or water.

This packet includes an application for free or reduced-price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from State SNAP or State 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 of the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced-price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

2025-2026 INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES
FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS OR FREE MILK

Free Eligibility Scale						Reduced Price Eligibility Scale					
Free Lunch, Breakfast, Milk						Reduced Price Lunch, Breakfast					
Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly	Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$ 20,345	\$ 1,696	\$ 848	\$ 783	\$ 392	1	\$ 28,953	\$ 2,413	\$ 1,207	\$ 1,114	\$ 557
2	\$ 27,495	\$ 2,292	\$ 1,146	\$ 1,058	\$ 529	2	\$ 39,128	\$ 3,261	\$ 1,631	\$ 1,505	\$ 753
3	\$ 34,645	\$ 2,888	\$ 1,444	\$ 1,333	\$ 667	3	\$ 49,303	\$ 4,109	\$ 2,055	\$ 1,897	\$ 949
4	\$ 41,795	\$ 3,483	\$ 1,742	\$ 1,608	\$ 804	4	\$ 59,478	\$ 4,957	\$ 2,479	\$ 2,288	\$ 1,144
5	\$ 48,945	\$ 4,079	\$ 2,040	\$ 1,883	\$ 942	5	\$ 69,653	\$ 5,805	\$ 2,903	\$ 2,679	\$ 1,340
6	\$ 56,095	\$ 4,675	\$ 2,338	\$ 2,158	\$ 1,079	6	\$ 79,828	\$ 6,653	\$ 3,327	\$ 3,071	\$ 1,536
7	\$ 63,245	\$ 5,271	\$ 2,636	\$ 2,433	\$ 1,217	7	\$ 90,003	\$ 7,501	\$ 3,751	\$ 3,462	\$ 1,731
8	\$ 70,395	\$ 5,867	\$ 2,934	\$ 2,708	\$ 1,354	8	\$ 100,178	\$ 8,349	\$ 4,175	\$ 3,853	\$ 1,927
Each Add'l person, add	\$ 7,150	\$ 596	\$ 298	\$ 275	\$ 138	Each Add'l person, add	\$ 10,175	\$ 848	\$ 424	\$ 392	\$ 196

2. **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 Mr. Bryan Paul, 914-472-7767, bpaul@edgemont.org.

3. **DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD?**

No. Use one *Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Application* for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: Bryan Paul at bpaul@edgemont.org or via mail to 300 White Oak Ln. Scarsdale, NY 10593.

4. **SHOULD I COMPLETE AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS?**

No, but please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact Mr. Bryan Paul, as soon as possible.

5. **MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO SUBMIT A NEW ONE?**

Yes. A new application must be completed each school year. If you do not send in a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for meals.

6. **I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?**

Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please submit an application for review.

7. **WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?**

Yes. Upon initial review, you will more likely than not be required to send written proof of the household income you report (e.g., tax statements, pay stubs, etc.).

8. **IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER?**

Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who become unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced-price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.

9. **WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION?**

You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Bryan Paul, 914-472-7767 or bpaul@edgemont.org.

10. **MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. 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.

11. **WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME?**

List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1,000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1,000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.

12. **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 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving the income fields blank, as we will assume you intended to do so.

13. **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.

14. **WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY?**

List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper and attach it to your application.

15. **MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR?**

To find out how to apply for [State SNAP](#) or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-800-342-3009 or email nyspio@otda.ny.gov.