



# Penn-Trafford School District

P.O. Box 530, Harrison City, PA 15636

Phone: 724-744-4496 or 724-744-2121; Fax: 724-744-4016

www.penntrafford.org

Effective, Efficient, Quality Education

Dear Parent/Guardian:

## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY

Children need healthy meals to learn. Penn-Trafford School District offers healthy meals every school day. **The High School lunch price structure is as follows: Your child(ren) may qualify for one free \$3.50 main course feature meal. Please note that if your child(ren) qualify for free lunches it only applies to the \$3.50 priced meal. All items at the High School are priced individually and will be billed as such. Accounts will be charged full price for any items, combos, or beverages not included in the main course meal. No exceptions. Please be aware that this does not pertain to breakfast. If a student buys breakfast, they will pay the full price regardless if they are free or not.** This packet includes an application for free lunch benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

If you have received a **NOTICE OF DIRECT CERTIFICATION** letter for free lunches, **do not** complete the application. But **do** let the school know if any children in your household are not listed on the **NOTICE OF DIRECT CERTIFICATION** letter you received.

### 1. WHO CAN GET FREE LUNCHES?

- All children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly the Food Stamp Program) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits are eligible for free lunches.
- **Foster children who are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free lunches.**
- **Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free lunches.**
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free lunches.
- Children may receive free lunches if your household's income is within the limits on the Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free lunches if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

YOUR CHILDREN MAY QUALIFY FOR FREE LUNCHES IF YOUR HOUSEHOLD INCOME FALLS AT OR BELOW THE LIMITS ON THIS CHART

INCOME CHART FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021			
Household size	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
1	23,606	1,968	454
2	31,894	2,658	614
3	40,182	3,349	773
4	48,470	4,040	933
5	56,758	4,730	1,092
6	65,046	5,421	1,251
7	73,334	6,112	1,411
8	81,622	6,802	1,570
Each additional person:	8,288	691	160

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 lunches, call or email **Greg Karazsia at (724)744-4496 or karazsiag@penntrafford.org**.
3. **DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? Possibly.** If your household has students at **BOTH** the High School **and** any K-8 school you **must** complete **TWO** applications. *Please use the correct applications for this scenario (High School students use High School Application/Elementary and/or Middle use K-8 Application).* **If this is the case, please be aware that both applications will contain the same information on it.** We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to your homeroom teacher or to Penn-Trafford School District, PO Box 530, Harrison City, PA 15636.
4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE LUNCHES? No, but read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification letter, contact the District at (724)744-2121, option 2 immediately.

**Matthew F. Harris, D.Ed.**  
Superintendent

**Scott A. Inglese**  
Assistant Superintendent

**Brett N. Lago**  
Director of Business Affairs/Board Secretary

**Gregory N. Karazsia**  
Director of Student Learning Supports

5. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? Yes! You are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application if you are able. The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit the PA Department of Human Services website at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us).
6. **MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE?** Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first 30 operating school days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE LUNCHES? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free lunches. Send in an application.
8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
9. 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 becomes unemployed may become eligible for free lunches if the household income drops below the income limit.
10. 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: Brett Lago, PO Box 530, Harrison City, PA 15636, (724)744-2121, option 2 or [lagob@penntrafford.org](mailto:lagob@penntrafford.org).
11. 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 lunches.
12. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 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.
13. 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, write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.
14. 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, or receive Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance payments, 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.
15. 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. Contact the District at (724)744-2121, Option 2 to receive a second application.
16. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for **SNAP** or other assistance benefits, visit [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us), contact your local county assistance office, or call 1-800-692-7462.

If you have other questions or need help, call (724)744-2121, option 2.

Sincerely,

*Brett Lago*

Brett Lago  
Business Manager

## HOW TO APPLY FOR FREE SCHOOL LUNCHES (High School Student(s) Application Only)

Use these instructions to help you fill out the application for free school lunches. You **must** submit a **separate** application for High School students from all other students – **If this is the household’s scenario, the same information will be on both applications.** The application must be filled out completely to certify your children for free school lunches. Follow these instructions in order! Each step of the instructions is the same as the steps on your application. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, contact the District at (724)744-2121, Option 2.

**USE A PEN (NOT A PENCIL) WHEN FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION AND DO YOUR BEST TO PRINT CLEARLY.**

### STEP 1: LIST ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS WHO ARE INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND STUDENTS UP TO AND INCLUDING GRADE 12

Tell us how many infants, children, and school students live in your household. They do NOT have to be related to you to be a part of your household.

**Who should I list here?** When filling out this section, include ALL members in your household who are:

- Children age 18 or under AND are supported with the household’s income;
- In your care under a foster arrangement, or qualify as homeless, migrant, or runaway youth;
- Students attending Penn-Trafford SD, regardless of age.

**A) List each child’s name.** Print each child’s name. Use one line of the application for each child. When printing names, write one letter in each box. Stop if you run out of space. If there are more children present than lines on the application, attach a second piece of paper with all required information for the additional children.

**B) Is the child a student at Penn-Trafford SD?** Mark ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ under the column titled **“Student”** to tell us which children attend Penn-Trafford SD. If you marked ‘Yes,’ write the grade level of the student in the **‘Grade’** column to the left.

**C) Do you have any foster children?** If any children listed are foster children, mark the **“Foster Child”** box next to the child’s name. If you are **ONLY** applying for foster children, after finishing **STEP 1**, go to **STEP 4**. Foster children who live with you may count as members of your household and should be listed on your application. If you are applying for both foster and non-foster children, go to step 3.

**D) Are any children homeless, migrant, or runaway?** If you believe any child listed in this section meets this description, mark the **“Homeless, Migrant, Runaway”** box next to the child’s name and complete all steps of the application.

### STEP 2: DO ANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN SNAP or TANF?

**If anyone in your household (including you) currently participates in one or more of the assistance programs listed below, your children are eligible for free school lunches:**

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

**A) If no one in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:**

- Leave **STEP 2** blank and go to **STEP 3**.

**B) If anyone in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:**

- Write a case number for SNAP or TANF. You only need to provide one case number. If you participate in one of these programs and do not know your case number, contact: 1-877-395-8930 or your local assistance office.
- Go to **STEP 4**.

### STEP 3: REPORT INCOME FOR ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

**How do I report my income?**

- Use the charts titled **“Sources of Income for Adults”** and **“Sources of Income for Children”** printed on the back side of the application form to determine if your household has income to report.
- Report all amounts in GROSS INCOME ONLY. Report all income in whole dollars. Do not include cents.
  - Gross income is the total income received before taxes.
  - Many people think of income as the amount they “take home” and not the total “gross” amount. Make sure that the income you report on this application has NOT been reduced to pay for taxes, insurance premiums, or any other amounts taken from your pay.

- Write a “0” in any fields where there is no income to report. Any income fields left empty or blank will also be counted as a zero. If you write ‘0’ or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. If local officials suspect that your household income was reported incorrectly, your application will be investigated.
- Mark how often each type of income is received, using the check boxes to the right of each field.

### 3.A. REPORT INCOME EARNED BY CHILDREN

**A) Report all income earned or received by children.** Report the combined gross income for ALL children listed in STEP 1 in your household in the box marked “Child Income.” Only count foster children’s income if you are applying for them together with the rest of your household.

**What is Child Income?** Child income is money received from outside your household that is paid DIRECTLY to your children. Many households do not have any child income.

### 3.B. REPORT INCOME EARNED BY ADULTS

#### Who should I list here?

- When filling out this section, include ALL adult members in your household who are living with you and share income and expenses, even if they are not related and even if they do not receive income of their own.
- **Do NOT include:**
  - People who live with you but are not supported by your household’s income AND do not contribute income to your household.
  - Infants, Children, and Students already listed in **STEP 1.**

**B) List adult household members’ names.** Print the name of each household member in the boxes marked “Names of Adult Household Members (First and Last).” Do not list any household members you listed in STEP 1. If a child listed in **STEP 1** has income, follow the instructions in **STEP 3, part A.**

**C) Report earnings from work.** Report all income from work in the “Earnings from Work” field on the application. This is usually the money received from working at jobs. If you are a self-employed business or farm owner, you will report your net income.  
  
**What if I am self-employed?** Report income from that work as a net amount. This is calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of your business from its gross receipts or revenue.

**D) Report income from public assistance/child support/alimony.** Report all income that applies in the “Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony” field on the application. Do not report the cash value of any public assistance benefits NOT listed on the chart. If income is received from child support or alimony, only report court-ordered payments. Informal but regular payments should be reported as “other” income in the next part.

**E) Report income from pensions/retirement/all other income.** Report all income that applies in the “Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income” field on the application.

**F) Report total household size.** Enter the total number of household members in the field “Total Household Members (Children and Adults)”. This number **MUST** be equal to the number of household members listed in **STEP 1** and **STEP 3**. If there are any members of your household that you have not listed on the application, go back and add them. It is very important to list all household members, as the size of your household affects your eligibility for free lunches.

**G) Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number.** An adult household member must enter the last four digits of their Social Security Number in the space provided. You are eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social Security Number. If no adult household members have a Social Security Number, leave this space blank and mark the box to the right labeled “Check if no SSN.”

## STEP 4: CONTACT INFORMATION AND ADULT SIGNATURE

**All applications must be signed by an adult member of the household. By signing the application, that household member is promising that all information has been truthfully and completely reported. Before completing this section, also make sure you have read the privacy and civil rights statements on the back of the application.**

**A) Provide your contact information.** Write your current address in the fields provided if this information is available. If you have no permanent address, this does not make your children ineligible for free school lunches. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.

**B) Print and sign your name.** Print the name of the adult signing the application and that person signs in the box “Signature of adult.”

**C) Write today’s date.** In the space provided, write today’s date in the box.

**D) Share children’s racial and ethnic identities (optional).** On the back of the application, we ask you to share information about your children’s race and ethnicity. This field is optional and does not affect your children’s eligibility for free school lunches.

**High School Application**

**STEP 1 List ALL Household Members who are infants, children, and students up to and including grade 12 (if more spaces are required for additional names, attach another sheet of paper)**

Definition of **Household Member**: "Anyone who is living with you and shares income and expenses, even if not related."

Children in **Foster care** and children who meet the definition of **Homeless, Migrant or Runaway** are eligible for free lunches. Read **How to Apply for Free Lunches** for more information.

Child's First Name	MI	Child's Last Name	Grade Enter HS for Head Start	Student? Yes No	Homeless, Migrant, Runaway
				<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Check all that apply

**STEP 2 Do any Household Members (including you) currently participate in one or more of the following assistance programs: SNAP or TANF?**

If NO > Go to STEP 3.

If YES > Write a case number here, then go to STEP 4 (Do not complete STEP 3)

Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Write only one nine (9) digit case number in this space.

**STEP 3 Report Income for ALL Household Members (Skip this step if you answered 'Yes' to STEP 2)**

Are you unsure what income to include here?

Flip the page and review the charts titled "Sources of Income" for more information.

The "Sources of Income for Children" chart will help you with the Child Income section.

The "Sources of Income for Adults" chart will help you with the All Adult Household Members section.

**A. Child Income**

Sometimes children in the household earn or receive income. Please include the TOTAL income received by all Household Members listed in STEP 1 here.

Child income \$

How often?	Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**B. All Adult Household Members (including yourself)**

List all Household Members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. For each Household Member listed, if they do receive income, report total gross income (before taxes) for each source in whole dollars (no cents) only.

If no income is received from any source, write '0'. If you enter '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report.

Name of Adult Household Members (First and Last)	Earnings from Work	How often?					Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony	How often?				Pensions/Retirement/ All Other Income	How often?			
		Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly	Annual		Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly		Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly
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Total Household Members (Children and Adults)

Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of Primary Wage Earner or Other Adult Household Member

Check if no SSN

**STEP 4 Contact Information and Adult Signature MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL**

"I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that school officials may verify (check) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws."

Street Address (if available) Apt #

City State Zip

Daytime Phone and Email (optional)

Printed name of adult signing the form

Signature of adult

Today's date

Sources of Income for Children	
Sources of Child Income	Example(s)
- Earnings from work	- A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages
- Social Security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disability Payments</li> <li>• Survivor's Benefits</li> </ul>	- A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits - A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits
- Income from person outside the household	- A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money
- Income from any other source	- A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust

Sources of Income for Adults		
Earnings from Work	Public Assistance / Alimony / Child Support	Pensions / Retirement / All Other Income
- Gross Salary, wages, cash bonuses - Net income from self-employment (farm or business) <b>* Reporting Annual Income is allowable for seasonal or self-employment</b> If you are in the U.S. Military: - Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances) - Allowances for off-base housing, food, and clothing	- Unemployment benefits - Worker's compensation - Supplemental Security Income (SSI) - Cash assistance from State or local government - Alimony payments - Child support payments - Veteran's benefits - Strike benefits	- Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits) - Private pensions or disability benefits - Regular income from trusts or estates - Annuities - Investment income - Earned interest - Rental income - Regular cash payments from outside household

**OPTIONAL Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities**

We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free lunches.

Ethnicity (check one):     Hispanic or Latino     Not Hispanic or Latino  
 Race (check one or more):     American Indian or Alaskan Native     Asian     Black or African American     Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander     White

**Do not fill out For School Use Only**

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 Weeks x 26, Twice A Month x 24, Monthly x 12

Total Income: \_\_\_\_\_ Per :     Week,     Every 2 Weeks,     Twice A Month,     Monthly,     Yearly,    Household Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Withdrawn: \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility:     Free        Reduced     Denied Reason: \_\_\_\_\_     Categorically Eligible     Other Source Categorically Eligible    Determining Official's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirming Official's Signature (cannot be the Determining Official): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of School Employee Completing Verification: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## SHARING INFORMATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

To save you time and effort, the information you gave on your K-8 Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application or High School Free Lunch Application may be shared with other programs for which your children may qualify. For the following programs, we must have your permission to share your information. Sending in this form will not change whether your children get free or reduced price meals.

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- Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my K-8 Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application or High School Free Lunch Application with school Administration/Guidance Counselors for programs that would benefit the child(ren) listed below including but not limited to fee waivers, Back Pack Program, etc.

If you checked "Yes" to the box above, fill out the form below to ensure that your information is shared for the child(ren) listed below. Your information will be shared only with the above programs mentioned in the above checked box.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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For more information, you may call Penn-Trafford's Business Office at (724)744-2121, Option 2.

Return this form to: Your homeroom teacher or Penn-Trafford School District, Attn: Business Office, PO Box 530, Harrison City, PA 15636.