IT IS NOW EASIER THAN EVER TO APPLY ONLINE!
FIND OUT NOW IF YOU QUALIFY FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS

nyc.applyforlunch.com

APPLY ONLINE
ONE APPLICATION PER HOUSEHOLD

24 HOURS
FAST RESULTS
WITHIN 24 HOURS FROM SUBMISSION

Need Assistance or Have Questions? Call SchoolFood Customer Information: (877) 363-6325

Your privacy is important to us. All information is kept confidential. Federal regulations do not allow the Department of Education to share your information with any other agency.
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
NATIONAL SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. The Office of SchoolFood offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast is at no charge to all students and lunch costs $1.75. Your children may qualify for free meals. To apply for free and reduced-price meals complete one application, paper or online, for all children living in the household attending Pre-Kindergarten to High School. It is quickest to apply online at nyc.applyforlunch.com. You may also submit an Eligibility Letter for Free School Meals/Milk if received from the NYS Education Department or NYC SNAP Office (formerly Food Stamp) to any school your child attends.

All applications must include the signature of an adult household member. Please refer to the guidelines contained in this letter when completing the application. An application that is not complete cannot be approved and your child will be charged $1.75 for lunch meals served until the information is received.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WILL HELP YOU:

1. Do I need to fill out an application for each child? No. Complete only one application, online or paper, listing all children in the household attending school in grades Pre-K to High School.

2. Who can get free meals? All children in households receiving benefits from TANF or SNAP (food stamp) can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines.

3. Can foster children get free meals? Yes. Foster children who are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for free meals regardless of income.

4. Can homeless, runaway and migrant children get free meals? Yes. Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant qualify for free meals. If you have not been informed that they will get free meals, please call your school or the SchoolFood at (877) 363-6325 to see if they qualify.

5. Who can get reduced-price meals? Your child(ren) can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced-price limits on the Federal Income Chart, shown on this application.

6. Should I fill out an application if I received a letter this school year stating my children are approved for free or reduced-price meals? Please read the letter carefully and follow the instructions. Call your child's school or the SchoolFood at (877) 363-6325 if you have questions.

7. My child's application was approved last year. Do I need to fill out another one? Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for free or reduced-price meals for the new school year.

8. Do I receive WIC assistance, can my child(ren) receive free meals at school? Children in households participating in WIC Programs may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please fill out an application.

9. Will the information I give be checked? Yes and we may also ask you to send written proof.

10. If I don't qualify now, may I apply later? Yes. You may apply or reapply at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start receiving SNAP, TANF or other benefits. If you lose your job, your child(ren) may be able to receive free or reduced-price meals. Please note that verifying documents will be requested if a new application is received which results in a free or reduced-price benefit.

11. What if I disagree with the decision about my application? Call SchoolFood at (877) 363-6325. If you are not satisfied with the response you may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to the Chief Executive, Office of School Support Services, 44-36 Vernon Blvd., Long Island City, New York 11101, (718) 707-4300.

12. May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen? Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be U.S. citizens to qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

13. Who should I include as members of my household? You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives or friends). You must include yourself and all other children (not attending Pre-K to High School) who live with you.

14. 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.

15. We are in the military. Do we include our housing allowance as income? If you get an off-base housing allowance, it must be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income.

16. My spouse is deployed to a combat zone. Is her combat pay counted as income? No, if the combat pay is received in addition to her basic pay because of her deployment and it wasn't received before she was deployed, combat pay is not counted as income.

17. 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, contact your local NYC SNAP - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Office or call 1-800-342-3009.

If you have questions or need help completing this application, contact your child's school for assistance or call SchoolFood at (877) 363-6325.

Sincerely,

Office of SchoolFood