

Free/Reduced Lunch Applications

Apply today for Free/Reduced Lunch

Dear White Bear Lake Area Schools families,

Our school provides healthy meals each day. Breakfast costs \$1.70; lunch costs \$2.70 for elementary students and \$3.00 for secondary students. Your children may qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. Please apply online or complete the enclosed Application for Educational Benefits following the instructions on the back. **A new application must be submitted each year.** At public schools, your application also helps the school qualify for education funds and discounts.

State funds help to pay for reduced-price school meals, so all students who are approved for either free or reduced-price school meals will receive school meals at no charge. State funds also help to pay for breakfasts for kindergarten students, so all participating kindergarten students receive breakfasts at no charge.

Return your completed Application for Educational Benefits to: White Bear Lake Area Schools, Nutrition Services Department, 4855 Bloom Ave, White Bear Lake, MN 55110.



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 school days of the new school year.

Why is it important to turn in the free and reduced lunch application by the end of September?

If you do not submit the form and aren't able to pay your lunch bill, the federal government may not reimburse your school for all of your child's meals. Additional benefits may be available to students who qualify for free or reduced lunch, such as lower or no fees for activities, some field trips, testing and more. Also, in order for your school to receive extra federal funding (which can keep classes small) our district must submit your application to the federal government by October 1. Applications sent to the federal government after that time will not help schools receive extra funding. In short, your school loses money.

Who can get free school meals?

Children in households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), and foster, homeless, migrant and runaway children can get free school meals without reporting household income. Alternatively, children can get free school meals if their household income is within the maximum income shown for their household size on the instructions.

To apply for free school meals, please complete the Application for Educational Benefits form enclosed with this packet or online at schoolcafe.com/isd624. If you have other questions or need help, call Nutrition Services at 651-407-7523.

Sincerely,
Bridget Lehn
Director of Nutrition Services

Common Questions

I get WIC or Medical Assistance. Can my children get free school meals?

Children in households participating in WIC or Medical Assistance do not automatically qualify for free meals. Children may be eligible for free or reduced-price school meals depending on other household financial information. Please fill out an application.

Who should I include as household members?

Include yourself and all other people living in the household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends).

May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen?

Yes. You or your children do not have to be U.S. citizens for your children to qualify for free or reduced-price school meals.

What if my income is not always the same?

List the amount that you normally get. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get overtime only sometimes. For seasonal work, write in the total annual income.

Will the income information or case number I give be checked?

It may be. We may also ask you to send written proof.

How will the information be kept?

Information you provide on the form, and your child's approval for meal benefits, will be protected as private data. For more information, see the back page of the Application for Educational Benefits.

If I don't qualify now, may I apply later?

Yes. Please complete an application at any time if your income goes down, your household size goes up, or you start getting SNAP, MFIP or FDPIR benefits.

Instructions

The Free and Reduced Price Meal Application will be available online each July.

To see if you qualify, go to the White Bear Lake Area School District's website at www.isd624.org and follow the steps below:

- At the top of the page click on "Our Schools" and select your child's school.
- On the school home page select "Support" in the dark orange bar at the top of the page.
- Select "Free/Reduced Lunch." This will take you directly to the online application.
- Once you are there, create or login to your account and fill out the application and hit the "submit my application" button.
- Visit the Nutrition Services website (<https://www.isd624.org/departments/nutrition-services>) for an instructional video and quick card.

You can also scan this code for the application. If you would like to have a paper copy of the application, please contact Nutrition Services at 651-407-7523.



Discover School Breakfast!

Did you know:

- White Bear Lake Area Schools serve breakfast daily, which costs \$1.70. That is less than at the convenience store and it includes whole grains, fruit choices and milk.
- There is no charge for Kindergarten, Free and Reduced-Price Eligible Students.
- Eating breakfast gives your brain energy to think clearly in class and gets you "charged up" for the day.
- Visit isd624.nutrislice.com for menus and more information.



White Bear Lake Area Schools

4855 Bloom Avenue, White Bear Lake

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isd624.org • 651-407-7523

