



Welcome to the **2020-21** school year

Dear Families,

We are looking forward to welcoming each student back to the 2020-21 school year, whether that means they are joining us in person on a rotating A/B Day Schedule in the Hybrid Learning Model or they have chosen the Distance Learning Model.

School will look much different than previous years due to new health and safety measures in response to COVID-19, but we commit to serving each of our Bears and providing an engaging, equitable and quality learning experience for each student.

The health and safety of our students, staff and families is of utmost importance as we prepare to return to school. Our plans are based on guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC). Plans will continue to be updated as the situation evolves.

Attending to the social-emotional well-being of our students will be a top priority as they return to school. The district's new Support Hub, available on our website directly at isd624.org/Support-Hub, serves as a place for families to access information such as crisis services, basic needs, mental health and well-being, physical health, racial justice, social emotional learning and more. Information about a Free Bear Care Mental Wellness Support Line and a Free Bear Care Health & Wellness Clinic can also be found on the Support Hub.

The district will keep families updated throughout the year via e-newsletters, voicedrops and social media. Please watch for these updates to be coming and familiarize yourself with the information. The most complete and up-to-date Return to School information can be found at the district's website, specifically at isd624.org/Fall2020.

We appreciate your partnership during what is sure to be an unforgettable year, as we work hard to best serve our students, families, staff and community.

Sincerely,
Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak, Superintendent

isd624.org

651-407-7500



/isd624

It's a **624** Fact

Mission

The mission of the White Bear Lake Area School District, the community at the forefront of educational excellence, honoring our legacy and courageously building the future, is to ensure each student realizes their unique talents and abilities, and makes meaningful contributions with local and global impact through a vital system distinguished by:

- Students who design and create their own future
- A culture that respects diverse people and ideas
- Safe, nurturing and inspiring experiences
- Exceptional staff and families committed to student success
- Abundant and engaged community partners

Equity Commitment

To nurture the whole student, we disrupt systemic inequities by recognizing, honoring, and embracing all cultures with humility and respect.

4-Way Decision Making Protocol

1. How does this help to provide opportunities to students who have been marginalized within the system in the past?
2. How does this help to ensure equitable access for all?
3. How does this help to eliminate barriers based on race/ethnicity, gender, disability, age, or other protected groups?
4. How does this ensure that the same rigorous standards for academic performance exist for all students?

Stewardship

The District has received the **excellence in financial reporting awards** from both the Association of School Business Officials and Government Finance Officers Association for **20 consecutive years**.

Facilities Updates

Find updates about the district's Facilities Process at isd624.org/about/building-our-future.

Mark Your Calendar

September 14

1st Day Gr K-12+ Hybrid Group A (A-K)
1st Day Distance Learning
1st Day Early Childhood Program

September 15

1st Day Gr K-12+ Hybrid Group B (L-Z)

October 16

Deadline for Directory Info & Military
Release opt-outs

IMPORTANT DISTRICT NOTICES

Student Directory Information

Student directory information is considered “public” under state and federal laws. Unless parents give specific instructions to the contrary, schools must release directory information to anyone who requests it.

Public directory information includes, but is not limited to: the student’s name, photograph, major field of study, dates of attendance, grade level, enrollment status (i.e., full-time or part-time), participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees, honors and awards received, and the most recent educational agency or institution attended.

If you do not wish for this information to be given out about your child, send written notification including: name of the student and/or parent, if applicable; home address; school presently attended by student; parent’s legal relationship to student, if applicable; and specific categories of directory information to be made not public without the parent’s or eligible student’s prior written consent, which shall only be applicable for that school year. Notification should be sent to: Restrict Directory Data, White Bear Lake Area Schools, 4855 Bloom Ave., White Bear Lake, MN 55110, no later than Friday, October 16, 2020.

Release of 11th/12th Grade Data to Military Recruiters

Federal law requires high schools to provide military recruiting officers access to public directory data (above) and the names, addresses and home telephone numbers of all 11th and 12th grade students. Parents have a right to refuse release of this data by sending written notification to: Refuse Release to Military Recruiters, White Bear Lake Area Schools, 4855 Bloom Ave., White Bear Lake, MN 55110, no later than Friday, October 16, 2020.

Stay connected!

Community e-Newsletter “Join Our Email List” on the Community e-Newsletter page of the District website (under the About tab) to receive the twice-a-month electronic publication. A video edition is sent out twice a month as well.

Stay Social Join White Bear Lake Area Schools’ social media circles - Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Find links on the District’s website.

Community Channel Watch us on Cable Channel 20 in the local viewing area with District information and updates. School Board meetings are broadcast after regular business meetings on Wednesday at 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. and Thursday at 10 a.m.

Free or reduced-price school meals

District families may qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. To apply, families should complete the Application for Educational Benefits available online (on the District’s website at isd624.org/Back-To-School) or using the paper form enclosed here. A new application must be submitted each year. At public schools, applications also help the school qualify for education funds and discounts.

District Policies

Complete School Board policies at isd624.org/about/district-policies



White Bear Lake Area Schools

HEALTHY REMINDERS

Keep
6 feet
from others



Wash
your hands
often



Wear a
face
covering



Cover your
cough &
sneezes



Go (*Stay Healthy*) Bears!

It is the expectation of the White Bear Lake Area School District that families, students and staff will self screen at home before coming to school.

Anyone experiencing ANY of these symptoms should NOT attend school:

New onset cough or shortness of breath by themselves

OR at least 2 of the following:

- Fever (100°F or higher) or Chills
- Headache
- Muscle Pain
- Sore Throat
- Fatigue
- Congestion
- Loss of Sense of Smell or Taste
- Gastrointestinal Symptoms (diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea)



White Bear Lake Area Schools
www.isd624.org * 651-407-7500



/isd624



6 FEET
APART



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

This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider.

isd624.org • 651-407-7523



Complete the Application for Educational Benefits form (on paper or online) for the school year 2020-2021 if any of the following applies to your household:

- Any household member currently participates in the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) , or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- The household includes one or more foster children (a welfare agency or court has legal responsibility for the child) or
- The total income of the household members is within the guidelines shown to the right (gross earnings before deductions, not take-home pay)
- Do not include as income: foster care payments, federal education benefits, MFIP payments or value of assistance received from SNAP, WIC, or FDPIR or assistance from the Military Privatized Housing Initiative. The income guidelines are effective from July 1, 2020 through June 30 2021.

If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please contact Deb Kelley at 651-407-7523 or debra.kelley@isd624.org

Step 1: Enter the enrolled student's birth date, last name, first name, school name and grade. Attach a 2nd paper with all required information for additional children, if needed
If any children listed are foster children, mark the "Foster Child" box next to the child's name (a welfare agency or court has legal responsibility for the child)

Step 2: Enter the Food Support (SNAP), Minnesota Family Investment Plan (MFIP) or Food Distribution Program on the Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number
In the space provided for any student in the household. Medical assistance does not qualify. If you do not qualify, leave blank

Step 3: Report Income for ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS (including yourself) who are living with you, even if they do not receive income. Include infants, children attending other school districts, children temporarily away at school or in college and all adults whether related or not such as grandparents, relatives or friends

Report Total Income for each household member listed for each source provided. If they do not receive income from any source, write "0". If you write "0" or leave any fields blank. You are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. See the Sources of Income section for more information. Mark how often each type of income is received by using the boxes to the right of each field. **Report all amounts in GROSS INCOME ONLY.** Gross income is the total income received before taxes; 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. For seasonal work, write in the total annual income. For self-employment or farm income, list the net income per month or year, after business expenses. A loss from farm or self-employment must be listed as 0 income and does not reduce other income. All Other Income, list gross incomes before deductions from any other sources such as SSI, unemployment, child support, public assistance, social security, rental income or annuities. If your income is not always the same, list the amount you typically receive. If you normally receive overtime, include it, but not if you receive it only sometimes

Report Total Household Size. Enter the total number of household members in the field "Total Household Size (Children and Adults)"

Provide the Last Four Digits of you Social Security number. Enter the last four digits of the Social Security number of the adult filling out the application or another adult household member. If you do not have a social security number, place an X in the box provided.

Step 4: Contact Information and Adult Signature. All applications must be signed by the adult completing this form. By signing the application, that household member is promising that all information has been truthfully and completely reported. **If you would like us to share your eligibility** status with other departments for the purpose of receiving waivers or assistance to other school related programs (such as athletics, testing and more), check the "Yes, share my information" box. If you do not wish to share, leave the box blank. **If you do not want your information to be shared with Minnesota Health Care Programs, check the box to the left**

Income Eligibility Reduced-Price Guidelines—July 1, 2020– June 30, 2021					
Family Size	Annually	Monthly	Twice Month	Every Weeks	Weekly
1	\$23,606	1,968	984	908	454
2	31,894	2,658	1,329	1,227	614
3	40,182	3,349	1,675	1,546	773
4	48,470	4,040	2,020	1,865	933
5	56,758	4,730	2,365	2,183	1,092
6	65,046	5,421	2,711	2,502	1,251
7	73,334	6,112	3,056	2,821	1,411
8	81,622	6,802	3,401	3,140	1,570
For each additional family member add:					
	8,288	691	346	319	160

SOURCES OF INCOME

Sources of Income for Children

Sources of Child Income	Examples
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earnings from work Social Security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Disability Payments b. Survivor's Benefits Income from person outside the household Income from any other source 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security A Parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money 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	All Other Income
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salary, wages, cash bonuses (before deductions or taxes) Net income from self-employment (farm or business) If you are in the U.S. Military: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances) b. Allowances for off-base housing, food & clothing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash Assistance from State or local government Supplemental Security Income Unemployment benefits Worker's compensation Alimony payments Child support payments Veteran's benefits Strike benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Security Disability benefits Regular income from trusts or estates Annuities Investment income Rental income Regular cash payments from outside household

The **Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act** requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We MAY share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules. At public school districts, each student's meal status also is recorded on a statewide computer system used to report student data to MDE as required by state law. MDE uses this information to: (1) Administer state and federal programs, (2) Calculate compensatory revenue for public schools, and (3) Judge the quality of the state's education program.

Nondiscrimination Statement: In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: How to File a Complaint, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

It is the expectation of the White Bear Lake Area Schools that **families, students and staff will self screen** at home before coming to school.



New onset cough or shortness of breath by themselves OR at least 2 of the following:

- ✓ Fever (100°F or higher) or Chills
- ✓ Headache
- ✓ Muscle Pain
- ✓ Sore Throat
- ✓ Fatigue
- ✓ Congestion
- ✓ Loss of Sense of Smell or Taste
- ✓ Gastrointestinal Symptoms (diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea)

If you live with or have been around anyone currently diagnosed with COVID-19

OR

if you have any of these symptoms,

please stay home!

isd624.org/Fall2020