

# Application for Educational Benefits

Apply today for additional benefits

Dear White Bear Lake Area Schools families,

Our school provides healthy meals each day. The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture is allowing schools to provide meals for the 2021-22 school year through a provision of the National School Lunch Program called the Seamless Summer Option (SSO). A waiver has been issued to support access to nutritious meals while minimizing exposure to COVID-19. Our school has chosen to use this waiver and operate the SSO, which enables us to provide **meals free of charge for all students**.

No application is required to receive this meal benefit. However, you may qualify for additional benefits, as listed on the reverse, if you complete an Application for Educational Benefits online or in paper form.



## Common Questions

**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 application by the end of September?** Additional benefits may be available to students who qualify 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 Oct. 1. Applications sent to the federal government after that time will not help schools receive extra funding. In short, your school loses money.

**Who should complete this application?** 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 educational benefits if their household income is within the maximum income shown for their household size on the instructions.

To apply for additional educational benefits, please complete the Application for Educational Benefits form enclosed with this packet or online at [schoolcafe.com/isd624](https://schoolcafe.com/isd624). If you have other questions or need help, call Nutrition Services at 651-407-7515.

**I get WIC or Medical Assistance. Can my children get benefits?**

Children in households participating in WIC or Medical Assistance do not automatically qualify for free benefits. 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 educational benefits.

**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. You may be asked 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

To apply, scan the code above or go to [isd624.org](https://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 log in to your account and fill out the application and hit the "submit my application" button.

Visit [isd624.org/departments/nutrition-services](https://isd624.org/departments/nutrition-services) for an instructional video and quick card.

To request a paper copy of the application, please contact us at 651-407-7515 or [nutritionservices@isd624.org](mailto:nutritionservices@isd624.org).



**White Bear Lake Area Schools**  
This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider.

[isd624.org](https://isd624.org) • 651-407-7515



# It's more than just a MEAL APPLICATION!



Did you know that the Application for Educational Benefits covers so much more than just meals?

Additional benefits may include:

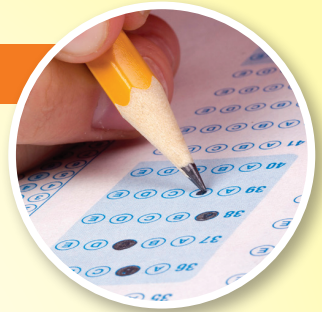


## INTERNET ACCESS

Eligible for discounted internet access services.

## AP TESTS

Reduced registration fee for AP tests.



## COLLEGE APPLICATION FEES

Discounted rate on fees associated with applying for college.



## SCHOOL FUNDING

Helps the school qualify for education funds and discounts.



## MOST SPORTS/ACTIVITIES

Free or discounted pay-to-participate sport and activity fees.

## P-EBT

(Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer)  
Temporary emergency nutrition benefit to purchase food.



**WBLAS families can complete the application any time.**

Applying online is fast and secure at [schoolcafe.com/isd624](https://schoolcafe.com/isd624).

Visit the WBLAS Nutrition Services web page to download a paper application at [isd624.org/departments/nutrition-services](https://isd624.org/departments/nutrition-services).