

# MASON CITY SCHOOLS FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS APPLICATION PACKET

## ENGLISH EDITION

Includes:

Letter of Explanation  
Instructions for Applying  
Family Application  
Eligibility Income Chart (refer to back of application)  
Sharing Information Forms (2 forms)  
What makes a Meal

SCHOOL YEAR

**2022-2023**



**Free & Reduced Price Applications are available:**

**On-line at [www.masonohioschools.com](http://www.masonohioschools.com)  
Reception Desk at each school  
Guidance Department at each school  
Registrar's Office at Mason Central  
Child Nutrition Office at Mason Central**



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. The Mason City Schools offers healthy meals each school day. The MCS Child Nutrition Program is governed by the USDA & National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and must meet Federal guidelines. For SY 21-22, Mason City Schools will operate the NSLP Summer Seamless Option (SSO) per the USDA waiver. This year, every student may receive 1 qualified free breakfast meal and 1 qualified free lunch meal; however, completion of the Free & Reduced Price Meal Application may qualify **newly** eligible children for additional benefits. **For SY 2021-2022, the USDA SSO waiver allows 1 free breakfast meal and 1 free lunch meal to students in MCS including grades 1-12 and also including 1 free breakfast meal for AM Pre-Kindergarten & AM Kindergarten.**

**This packet includes an application for free or reduced price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.**

- 1. Who can receive free or reduced-price meals?** All children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Ohio Works First (OWF); foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court; children participating in their school's Head Start program; and children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals. Also, your children may receive free or reduced-price meals if your household's income is within the federal income eligibility guidelines limits.

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$23,828	\$1,986	\$459
2	32,227	2,686	620
3	40,626	3,386	782
4	49,025	4,086	943
5	57,424	4,786	1,105
6	65,823	5,486	1,266
7	74,222	6,186	1,428
8	82,621	6,886	1,589
Each additional	8,399	700	162

- 2. How do I know if my children qualify as homeless, migrant or runaway?** If members of your household lack a permanent address; are staying together in a shelter, hotel or other temporary housing arrangement; relocate on a seasonal basis or; children live with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household then the children may qualify as homeless, migrant or runaway. If you have not been told your children will receive free meals, please call or email **Mr. Todd Petrey, Chief Operations Officer, [petreyt@masonohioschools.com](mailto:petreyt@masonohioschools.com); 513-398-0474 ext 20148** to see if they qualify.
- 3. Do I need to fill out an application for each child?** No. Use one free and reduced-price school meal application for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete. Please submit all required information. **Return the completed application to Jennifer Seitz, Office of Child Nutrition, 211 N. East Street, Mason, OH 45040: 513-336-6526 option 3; [seitzj@masonohioschools.com](mailto:seitzj@masonohioschools.com)**
- 4. Should I complete an application if I received a letter this school year saying my children are approved already for free meals?** No, but please read the letter carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from the eligibility notification, contact **Jennifer Seitz, Office of Child Nutrition, 211 N. East Street, Mason, OH 45040: 513-336-6526 option 3; [seitzj@masonohioschools.com](mailto:seitzj@masonohioschools.com)** immediately.
- 5. Can I apply online?** No
- 6. My child's application was approved last year. Do I need to complete another application?** The district has made the decision to carry forward your past SY 2020-2021 approved information, including information regarding fee waivers and other programs that you may have selected for your student(s). Therefore, a new application and/or

sharing information form doesn't need to be completed for this school year unless there is a program not selected previously that you wish to make a change.

7. **I receive Women, Infants and Children (WIC) benefits. Can my child(ren) get free meals?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please submit a completed application.
8. **Will the information I give be checked?** Yes, we also may ask you to send written proof.
9. **If I do not 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 and reduced-price meals 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 the following contact person: **Mr. Todd Petrey, Chief Operations Officer, 211 N. East Street, Mason, OH 45040; 513-398-0474 ext 20148.**
11. **May I apply if someone else in my household is not a U.S. citizen?** Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced-price meals.
12. **What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1,000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, submit the report with the routine amount of \$1,000 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 that are asked for you to report on the application or may not receive income at all. When this happens, please write a 0 in the corresponding field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those also will be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank.
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, it also 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. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment also is excluded from income.
15. **What if there is not 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 **Jennifer Seitz, Office of Child Nutrition, 211 N. East Street, Mason, OH 45040; 513-336-6526 option 3, to receive a second application.** to receive a second application.
16. **Why am I being asked to give my consent for an instructional fee waiver?** Ohio public schools are required to waive the school instructional fees for children that qualify for free meal benefits. School food service personnel must have parent consent to share the student meal application if your child(ren) qualify for a fee waiver. If you agree to allow your child(ren)'s meal application to be shared with school officials to see if they qualify for a fee waiver then select **yes** in part 5. If you do not wish for that information to be shared, then select **no** in part 5. Answering no to this question will mean your child will not be considered for a fee waiver. Answering this question either way will not change your child(ren)'s free or reduced-price meal eligibility.
17. **My family needs more help. Are there other programs we might apply for?** To find out how to apply for Ohio Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 877-852-0010.

If you have other questions or need help, call **513-336-6526 option 6.**

*Si necesita ayuda, por favor llame al teléfono 513-336-6526 opción 6*

*Si vous voudriez d'aide, contactez nous au numero: 513-336-6526 option 6*

Sincerely,

**Rachel Tilford, SNS, Child Nutrition Supervisor**

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING A HOUSEHOLD MEMBER IS ANY CHILD OR ADULT LIVING WITH YOU

## IF YOUR HOUSEHOLD RECEIVES BENEFITS FROM THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) OR OHIO WORKS FIRST (OWF), FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

**Part 1:** List all household members and the school name and school grade level for each child.

**Part 2:** List the 7- digit case number for any household member (including adults) receiving SNAP or OWF benefits.

**Part 3:** Skip this part.

**Part 4:** Skip this part.

**Part 5:** Answer yes or no and sign your name if you would like the application to be checked by school officials to determine if the child(ren) qualifies for a school instructional fee waiver.

**Part 6:** Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are **not** necessary.

**Part 7:** 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 or reduced price meals.

## IF NO ONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD RECEIVES SNAP OR OWF BENEFITS AND IF ANY CHILD IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS HOMELESS, MIGRANT OR RUNAWAY, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

**Part 1:** List all household members and the school name and school grade level for each child.

**Part 2:** Skip this part.

**Part 3:** If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway, check the appropriate box and call **Mr. Todd Petrey, Chief Operations Officer, 211 N. East Street, Mason, OH 45040; 513-398-0474 ext 20148**. If not, skip this part.

**Part 4:** Complete only if a child in your household is not eligible under Part 3. See Instruction for all other households.

**Part 5:** Answer yes or no and sign your name if you would like the application to be checked by school officials to determine if the child(ren) qualifies for a school instructional fee waiver.

**Part 6:** Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are **not** necessary if you did not need to complete in part 4.

**Part 7:** 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 or reduced-price meals.

## IF YOU APPLY FOR A FOSTER CHILD, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

### **If all children in the household are foster children:**

**Part 1:** List all foster children and the school name and grade level for each child. Check the box that indicates the child is a foster child.

**Part 2:** Skip this part.

**Part 3:** Skip this part.

**Part 4:** Skip this part.

**Part 5:** Answer yes or no and sign your name if you would like the application to be checked by school officials to determine if the child(ren) qualifies for a school instructional fee waiver.

**Part 6:** Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are **not** necessary.

**Part 7:** 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 or reduced-price meals.

### **If some children in the household are foster children:**

**Part 1:** List all household members and the school name and school grade level for each child. For any person, including children, with no income, you must check the "No Income" box. Check the box if the child is a foster child.

**Part 2:** If the household does not have a 7-digit SNAP or OWF case number, skip this part.

**Part 3:** If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call **Mr. Todd Petrey, Chief Operations Officer, 211 N. East Street, Mason, OH 45040; 513-398-0474 ext 20148**. If not, skip this part.

**Part 4:** Follow these instructions to report total household income from this month or last month.

- **Box 1–Name:** List all household members with income.
- **Box 2 –Gross Income and how often it was received:** For each household member, list each type of income received for the month. Check the appropriate box to note how often the person receives the income - weekly, every other week, twice a month, or monthly. For earnings, list the gross income - not the take-home pay. Gross income is the amount earned *before* taxes and other deductions and can be found on pay stubs. For other income, list the amount and check the box to note how often each person received assistance from welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's benefits (VA benefits), and disability benefits. Under *All Other Income*, list Worker's Compensation, unemployment or strike benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household and any other income. Do not include income from SNAP, FDPIR, WIC, federal education benefits and foster payments received by the family from the placing agency. For **ONLY** the self-employed, report income after expenses under *Earnings from Work*. This is for your business, farm, or rental property. If you are in the Military Privatized Housing Initiative or receive combat pay, do not include these allowances as income.

**Part 5:** Answer yes or no and sign your name if you would like the application to be checked by school officials to determine if the child(ren) qualifies for a school instructional fee waiver.

**Part 6:** Adult household member must sign the form and list the last four digits of their Social Security Number (or mark the box if he or she does not have one).

**Part 7:** 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 or reduced-price meals.

**ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS (INCLUDING WIC HOUSEHOLDS) FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:**

**Part 1:** List all household members and the school name and grade level for each child. For any person, including children, with no income, you must check the "No Income Box."

**Part 2:** If the household does not have a 7-digit SNAP or OWF case number, skip this part.

**Part 3:** If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call **Mr. Todd Petrey, Chief Operations Officer, 211 N. East Street, Mason, OH 45040; 513-398-0474 ext 20148**. If not, skip this part.

**Part 4:** Follow these instructions to report total household income from this month or last month.

- **Box 1 – Name:** List all household members with income.
- **Box 2 –Gross Income and how often it was received:** For each household member, list each type of income received for the month. Check the box to note how often the person receives the income - weekly, every other week, twice a month, or monthly. For earnings, be sure to list the gross income - not take-home pay. Gross income is the amount earned *before* taxes and other deductions and can be found on pay stubs. For other income, list the amount and check the box to note how often each person received assistance from welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's benefits (VA benefits), and disability benefits. Under *All Other Income*, list Worker's Compensation, unemployment or strike benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household and any other income. Do not include income from SNAP, FDPIR, WIC, federal education benefits and foster payments received by the family from the placing agency. For ONLY the self-employed, report income after expenses under *Earnings from Work*. This is for your business, farm, or rental property. If you are in the Military Privatized Housing Initiative or receive combat pay, do not include these allowances as income.

**Part 5:** Answer yes or no and sign your name if you would like the application to be checked by school officials to determine if the child(ren) qualifies for a school instructional fee waiver.

**Part 6:** An adult household member must sign the form and list the last four digits of their Social Security Number (or mark the box if he or she does not have one).

**Part 7:** 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 or reduced-price meals.



Your children may qualify for free or reduced-price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES 2021-2022			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$23,828	\$1,986	459
2	32,227	2,686	620
3	40,626	3,386	782
4	49,025	4,086	943
5	57,424	4,786	1,105
6	65,823	5,486	1,266
7	74,222	6,186	1,428
8	82,621	6,886	1,589
Each additional person:	8,399	700	162

**Privacy Act Statement: This explains how we will use the information you give us.**

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You are not required to provide information, but if information is not provided, the state agency 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), Ohio Works First (OWF) case number or other 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.

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, audiotope, 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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



## SHARING INFORMATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

To save you time and effort, the information you gave on your Free and Reduced Price School Meals 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.**

- 
- No! I **DO NOT** want information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application shared with any of these programs.
- 
- Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with **school and community groups sponsoring programs involving holiday gifts or food baskets (limited availability).**
- Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with the **Summer School Scholarship program.**
- Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with **groups sponsoring the provision of school supplies.**
- Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with **Mason High School counselors for the purpose of fee reduction or waiver for standardized testing to include: ACT, SAT, or AP testing.**
- Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with the **High School Student Activities** program for the purpose of **assistance for any student activity participation fee for any club or team, in addition to homecoming/prom tickets, clothing and accessories, and after prom.**
- Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with the **Performing Arts** program for the purpose of **assistance for any student activity participation fee for Band, Choir or Orchestra.**
- Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with **the Athletic Department or designee for a "Pay to Participate Fee Waiver."**

**If you checked yes to any or all of the boxes above, fill out the form below. Your information will be shared only with the programs you checked.**

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

For more information, you may call **Jennifer Seitz at 513-336-6526 option 3.**

**Return this form to: Mason City Schools  
Office of Child Nutrition  
211 North East St.  
Mason, OH 45040**

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## SHARING INFORMATION WITH MEDICAID/*Healthy Start, Healthy Families*

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

If your children get free or reduced price school meals, they may also be able to get free or low-cost health insurance through Medicaid or the State of Ohio *Healthy Start, Healthy Families* Program. Children with health insurance are more likely to get regular health care and are less likely to miss school because of sickness.

Because health insurance is so important to children's well-being, **the law allows us to tell Medicaid and *Healthy Start, Healthy Families* that your children are eligible for free or reduced price meals, unless you tell us not to.** Medicaid and *Healthy Start, Healthy Families* only use the information to identify children who may be eligible for their programs. Program officials may contact you to offer to enroll your children. Filling out the Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application does not automatically enroll your children in health insurance.

If you do not want us to share your information with Medicaid or *Healthy Start, Healthy Families*, fill out the form below and send in (Sending in this form will not change whether your children get free or reduced price meals).

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**No! I DO NOT** want information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application shared with Medicaid or the *Healthy Start, Healthy Families*.

**If you checked no, fill out the form below.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more information, you may call **Jennifer Seitz, Office of Child Nutrition** at **513-336-6526 option 3**.

**Return this form to:** **Mason City Schools**  
**Office of Child Nutrition**  
**211 North East St,**  
**Mason, OH 45040**

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# WHAT MAKES A MEAL AT MASON CITY SCHOOLS




Free meals must meet the criteria as set forth for a reimbursable meal under USDA guidelines. Lunch at no cost consists of 5 components:

- Grades 1-8: Entrée (grain, protein), choice of 1-3 fruits and vegetables, & milk
- Grades 9-12: Entrée (grain, protein), choice of 2 fruits and 2 vegetables, & milk
- **Students must select a minimum of 1 fruit or vegetable, plus 2 other components to be considered a lunch meal and to receive at no charge.**

**Note: Extra entrée items, milk, beverages, additional fruits/vegetables, and a la carte may still be purchased from your student's meal account.**

**Each student is required to go through the lunch line and enter their student id to register their meal purchased.**

For more information on meal pricing please go to [www.mcschildnutrition.com](http://www.mcschildnutrition.com)

	<p><b>What Makes A Lunch at MHS?</b> <b>Lunch:</b> A complete lunch consists of <b>5</b> Food Components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Milk</li><li>2. Fruit (2 fruits)</li><li>3. Vegetable (2 vegetables)</li><li>4. Grain (Part of Entrée)</li><li>5. Meat/Meat Alternate (Part of Entrée)</li></ol>	<p><b>What Makes A Breakfast?</b></p>	
<p>Under Offer Verse Serve, students <b>MUST select 3 food components, and 1 MUST be a fruit or vegetable.</b></p>		<p>Under Offer Verse Serve, students <b>MUST select at least 3 food items and 1 MUST be a fruit or juice.</b></p>	
<p>MCS Office of Child Nutrition  211 North East St Mason OH 45040 Phone: 513-336-6526 This institution is an equal opportunity provider.</p>			

# Healthy Start & Healthy Families

Does your child qualify for the School Meals Program?  
If so, your family may qualify for free health coverage!



## Healthy Start & Healthy Families

*Healthy Start* offers free health care coverage  
for kids (birth to age 19) and pregnant women.

*Healthy Families* offers free health care coverage for the  
entire family - parents AND kids.

Healthy Start & Healthy Families Covers:

Doctor Visits  
Hospital Care  
Immunizations  
Substance Abuse

Prescriptions  
Vision Services  
Dental Care  
Mental Health

And Much More!

For more information or an application, call:  
**1-800-324-8680 (a free call!)**

TDD 1-800-292-3572

Monday - Friday 7 am to 8 pm

Saturday - Sunday 12 pm to 5 pm



*Your family's size and income determines if you and your family are eligible for Healthy Start or Healthy Families.  
Healthy Start & Healthy Families are Medicaid Programs administered by The Ohio Department of Job & Family Services.*