

Letter to Parents for School Meal Programs

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Churchville-Chili students can receive a free breakfast and lunch at school every day for the 2024-25 school year, aligning with our district goal of equity and access. The district is once again participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), a program funded by a partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and New York State. Providing free meals for all students, regardless of income, is a proven strategy to reduce food insecurity, improve mental and physical health, support students' ability to thrive academically, and bolster educational, health, and economic equity. Thus, the district encourages all students to take advantage of this benefit by getting a free breakfast or lunch at school every day. Menus are posted monthly at www.cccsd.org/departments/nutritional-services/lunch-menus.

Families do not have to complete any forms for their student(s) to receive free meals at school. However, families are strongly encouraged to complete the Income Eligibility Form (formerly known as the Free and Reduced Meal Application) for the 2024-25 school year. Depending on your income and family size your family may qualify for fee reductions (AP/SAT exams, instrument rental, etc.) and other benefits (P-EBT payments, reduced internet costs, reduced Amazon Prime membership). This information is also vital in ensuring that the district receives adequate funding from the federal government and New York State. The Income Eligibility Form is available on the Nutritional Services page of the school website or in the district's school nutrition office at 139 Fairbanks Road, Churchville, NY 14428.

We look forward to providing free breakfast and lunch for all students. There will continue to be snacks and a la carte items available for a fee. For more information parents and guardians can call the Churchville-Chili School Nutrition Office at (585) 293-1800 ext. 3330.

Below are common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

- 1. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A FORM FOR EACH CHILD?** No. Complete one Household Income Eligibility Form per family. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information as indicated on the application and application instructions. Return the completed application to: Churchville-Chili Nutritional Service Dept. 139 Fairbanks Rd., Churchville, NY 14428.
- 2. SHOULD I FILL OUT A FORM EVEN THOUGH ALL STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE FREE MEALS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR?** Yes. Filling out the form helps provide essential funding for your school. You may also potentially qualify for P-EBT and may receive discounted utilities and internet access. Additionally, you may become eligible for fee waivers for college applications and admissions tests (i.e. SATs, ACTs) and for discounted school fees such as band instrument fees, textbook fees, athletic fees, technology fees, etc.
- 3. MY CHILD'S FORM WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT ANOTHER ONE?** Yes. Your child's form is only good for that school year and carried over for the first 30 operating days of this school year (or until a new eligibility determination is made, whichever comes first). You must send in a new form unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
- 4. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?** Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
- 5. IF I DON'T 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 or who experiences financial hardship mid-year may become eligible for benefits if the household income drops below the income limit.
- 6. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY FORM?** You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Matthew DeAmaral 139 Fairbanks Road, Churchville, NY 14428 (585) 293-1800 EXT. 2330.
- 7. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN?** Yes. You, your child(ren), or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to qualify.
- 8. 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) who share income and expenses. You must include yourself and all children living with you. If you live with other people who are economically independent (for example, people who you do not support, who do not share income with you or your children, and who pay a pro-rated share of expenses), do not include them.
- 9. 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.
- 10. 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, clothing, it must also 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 is also excluded from income.
- 11. 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 assistance office or call 1-800-342-3009.

How to Apply: Carefully complete one Income Eligibility Form, following the instructions on the form, for your household and return it to the designated office listed on the form. All household members and children should be listed on one form.

- If you receive SNAP or TANF benefits or participate in the FDPIR, the form must include the children's names, the household SNAP, TANF or FDPIR case number and the signature of an adult household member.
 - Contact your local Department of Social Services for your SNAP or TANF case number, if necessary.
 - No form is necessary if the household was notified by the School Food Authority that their children have been directly certified based on Assistance Program participation. If the household is not sure if their children have been directly certified, the household should contact the school.
- If you do not list a SNAP, TANF or FDPIR case number for any household member, the form must include the names of everyone in the household, the amount of income for each household member, how often it is received and where it comes from. It must include the signature of an adult household member and the last four digits of that adult's social security number or check the box if the adult does not have a social security number.
- **An Income Eligibility Form cannot be approved unless complete eligibility information is submitted, as indicated on the application and in the instructions.** We will let you know when your application is approved or denied.

Reporting Changes: The benefits that you are approved for at the time of form are effective for the entire school year and up to 30 operating days into the new school year (or until a new eligibility determination is made, whichever comes first). You no longer need to report changes for an increase in income or decrease in household size, or if you no longer receive SNAP.

Meal Service to Children with Disabilities: Federal regulations require schools and institutions to serve meals at no extra charge to children with a disability which may restrict their diet. A student with a disability is defined in 7CFR Part 15b.3 of Federal regulations, as one who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual, a record of such an impairment or being regarded as having such an impairment. Major life activities include but are not limited to: functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working. You must request meal modifications from the school and provide the school with a medical statement from a State licensed healthcare professional. If you believe your child needs substitutions because of a disability, please get in touch with us for further information, as there is specific information that the medical statement must contain.

Confidentiality: The United States Department of Agriculture has approved the release of students names and eligibility status, without parent/guardian consent, to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of federal education programs such as Title I and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which are United States Department of Education programs used to determine areas such as the allocation of funds to schools, to evaluate socioeconomic status of the school's attendance area, and to assess educational progress. Information may also be released to State health or State education programs administered by the State agency or local education agency, provided the State or local education agency administers the program, and federal State or local nutrition programs similar to the National School Lunch Program. Additionally, all information contained in the Income Eligibility Form may be released to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of programs authorized under the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) or Child Nutrition Act (CNA); including the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, the Special Milk Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC); the Comptroller General of the United States for audit purposes, and federal, State or local law enforcement officials investigating alleged violation of the programs under the NSLA or CNA. The disclosure of eligibility information not specifically authorized by the NSLA requires a written consent statement from the parent/guardian. In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age, disability or limited English proficiency.

Nondiscrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf> from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted 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; or
2. **fax:**
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:** program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)/Provision 2 non-base year Household Income Eligibility Form

Churchville-Chili CSD is participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or Provision 2 in a non-base year. All children in the school will receive meals at no charge regardless of household income or completion of this form. This form is to determine eligibility for additional State and federal program benefits that your child(ren) may qualify for. Read the instructions on the back, complete **only one** form for your household, sign your name and return it to the school named above. Call 585-293-1800 ext 3330 or 3325, if you need help. Additional names may be listed on a separate paper.

Return Completed Applications to:

**Churchville Chili Nutritional Service Dept.
139 Fairbanks Road
Churchville, NY 14428**

1. List all children in your household who attend school:

Student Name	School	Grade/Teacher	Foster Child	No Income
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. SNAP/TANF/FDPIR Benefits:

If anyone in your household receives either SNAP, TANF or FDPIR benefits, list their name and CASE # here. Skip to Part 4, and sign the application.

Name: _____ CASE # _____

3. Household Gross Income: List all people living in your household, how much and how often they are paid (weekly, every other week, twice per month, monthly). Do not leave income blank. If no income, check box. If you have listed a foster child above, you must report their personal income.

Name of household member	Earnings from work before deductions <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Child Support, Alimony <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Pensions, Retirement Payments <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Other Income, Social Security <i>Amount / How Often</i>	No Income
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Total Household Members (Children and Adults)

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*Last Four Digits of Social Security Number: XXX-XX-__ __ __ __

I do not have a SS# <input type="checkbox"/>
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*When completing section 3, an adult household member must provide the last four digits of their Social Security Number (SS#) or mark the "I do not have a SS# box" before the application can be approved.

4. Signature: An adult household member must sign this application.

I certify (promise) that all the information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the information is being given so the school may receive federal funds. The school officials may verify the information and if I purposely give false information, I may be prosecuted under applicable State and federal laws, and my children may lose meal benefits.

Signature:

Date:

Email Address:

Home Phone

Work Phone

Home Address

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE – FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY

Annual Income Conversion (Only convert when multiple income frequencies are reported on application)
Weekly X 52; Every Two Weeks (bi-weekly) X 26; Twice Per Month X 24; Monthly X 12

SNAP/TANF/Foster
Income

Total Household Income/How Often:

Household Size:

Free Eligibility

Reduced Eligibility

Denied Eligibility

Signature of Reviewing Official

CEP/Provision 2 Non-Base Year Household Income Form INSTRUCTIONS

PART 1 ALL HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE STUDENT INFORMATION. DO NOT FILL OUT MORE THAN ONE FORM FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD.

- (1) Print the names of the children, including foster children, for whom you are applying on one form.
 - (2) List their grade and school.
 - (3) Check the box to indicate a foster child living in your household, and check the box for each child with no income.
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PART 2 HOUSEHOLDS GETTING SNAP, TANF OR FDPIR SHOULD COMPLETE PART 2 AND SIGN PART 4.

- (1) List a current SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) or FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations) case number of anyone living in your household. Do not use the 16-digit number on your benefit card. The case number is provided on your benefit letter.
 - (2) An adult household member must sign the form in PART 4. **SKIP PART 3** - Do not list names of household members or income if you list a SNAP, TANF or FDPIR number.
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PARTS 3 & 4 ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE ALL OF PARTS 3 AND 4.

- (1) Write the names of everyone in your household, whether or not they get income. Include yourself, the children you are completing the form for, all other children, your spouse, grandparents, and other related and unrelated people living in your household. Use another piece of paper if you need more space.
 - (2) Write the amount of current income each household member receives, before taxes or anything else is taken out, and indicate where it came from, such as earnings, welfare, pensions and other income. If the current income was more or less than usual, write that person's usual income. **Specify how often this income amount is received: weekly, every other week (bi-weekly), 2 x per month, monthly. If no income, check the box.** The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care and Development Block Grant, TANF and At Risk Child Care Programs should **not** be considered as income for this program.
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