



Children need healthy meals to learn. Kyrene School District offers healthy meals every school day.

The meal prices are as follows:

Elementary School Breakfast price is **\$1.70**; Elementary School Lunch price is **\$3.00**
Middle Schools Breakfast price is **\$1.70** at all sites; Middle School Lunch price is **\$3.10**
Reduced-price breakfast is **\$0.30** and Reduced-price lunch is **\$0.40** at all sites

A meal application is not required to be completed. It is available online at linqconnect.com or a paper application is available at your student’s school office or can be printed from www.kyrene.org/foodservices.

Please complete only one application per household and list all people in household on it to help process applications in a timely manner. You may apply online using the computer for parental use in the school office.

This Federal Program is optional. Please review the income guidelines and apply if you think you are eligible. For more information, please visit the webpage: www.kyrene.org/foodservices
Translated applications are available in 33 languages from a link at the bottom of our webpage.

Your child(ren) may qualify for free meals or reduced-price meals. You will have to pay the regular price for meals until your application is processed and eligibility determined. Eligibility from another school district does not automatically update into to Kyrene School District.

This packet includes a school meal application for free or reduced-priced meal benefits, application directions, and consent for sharing form. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

This program provides one breakfast and one lunch meal per day per student.

1. WHO CAN GET FREE MEALS?

- a. All children in households receiving benefits from **SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), FDIPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations)** or **TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)**, may receive free meals regardless of income.
- b. Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- c. Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- d. Children can get free or reduced-price meals if your household’s gross income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced-price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

Household Size*	How often was income received?									
	Weekly		Bi-Weekly		2x Month		Monthly		Annually	
	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced
1	\$377	\$536	\$753	\$1,072	\$816	\$1,161	\$1,632	\$2,322	\$19,578	\$27,861
2	\$511	\$728	\$1,022	\$1,455	\$1,108	\$1,576	\$2,215	\$3,152	\$26,572	\$37,814
3	\$646	\$919	\$1,291	\$1,838	\$1,399	\$1,991	\$2,798	\$3,981	\$33,566	\$47,767
4	\$780	\$1,110	\$1,560	\$2,220	\$1,690	\$2,405	\$3,380	\$4,810	\$40,560	\$57,720
5	\$915	\$1,302	\$1,829	\$2,603	\$1,982	\$2,820	\$3,963	\$5,640	\$47,554	\$67,673
6	\$1,049	\$1,493	\$2,098	\$2,966	\$2,273	\$3,235	\$4,546	\$6,469	\$54,548	\$77,626
7	\$1,184	\$1,685	\$2,367	\$3,369	\$2,565	\$3,650	\$5,129	\$7,299	\$61,542	\$87,579
8	\$1,318	\$1,876	\$2,636	\$3,752	\$2,856	\$4,064	\$5,712	\$8,128	\$68,536	\$97,532
Additional members, add:	\$135	\$192	\$269	\$383	\$292	\$415	\$583	\$830	\$6,994	\$9,953

2. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY? Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and have not been notified that your children will get free meals, please e-mail **Leticia Beltran (lbeltran@kyrene.org)** or call at **480-541-1523** for qualification. McKinney-Vento eligibility must be determined or re-established for each school year.
3. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A DIRECT CERTIFICATION LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? No, but please read the letter carefully and follow the instructions. **Call Mariah Bernal (480-541-1368) at the Kyrene School District Office if you have questions or to check on eligibility status.** Each child receives an individual letter; contact us if you do not get a letter for each student. Letters are sent to the school to be given to the student to bring home.
4. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? Yes. We prefer you complete an online application instead of a paper application. It has the same requirements and will ask you the same information as the paper application. Visit linqconnect.com to begin this process. Please submit one way only, online or paper application to help the processing of applications. **Contact Mariah Bernal, Kyrene School District, 8700 S. Kyrene Road #MS1A, Tempe, AZ 85284; phone at 480- 541-1356 or KSD@kyrene.org** and/or refer to the information below to complete a paper application.
5. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. Use **one Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application for all students in your household.** We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to the school office. Securely attach a paper for additional family members if necessary and income information if needed. **Contact Mariah Bernal (480-541-1368) for applications that can be translated in 33 languages or visit the following website: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/family-friendly-application-translations>.** The high schools in the area are in the Tempe Union High School District require a separate application for high school students in your household.
6. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT ANOTHER ONE? Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and until 9/09/2022 of this school year. As soon as the new year application is processed that meal status takes effect immediately. You may complete an online application as in Step 4 or **return a paper application to the school office, or email it to Mariah Bernal at KBS@kyrene.org; or mail to Kyrene School District, 8700 S. Kyrene Road, #MS 1A, Tempe, AZ 85284.**
7. I RECEIVE 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 fill out and submit an application.
8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes and we may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
9. 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 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 District officials. You also may ask for a hearing by contacting our District's **Chief Financial Officer, 8700 S. Kyrene Road Tempe, AZ 85284 or call (480) 541-1368 or email your request to KBS@kyrene.org to begin the process.**
11. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be U.S. citizens 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 \$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.
13. WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT? Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application, or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.

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 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.
15. **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 1-800-352-8401. For Kyrene School District assistance contact our Family Resource Center at 480-541-4772.
16. **HOW DO I RECEIVE MY NOTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY LETTER?** Within a few days of receipt and processing of the application, notification letters are emailed to you or if no email is given, they are then given to the only or oldest Kyrene student in the family to take home to the parent/guardian. Please contact Mariah Bernal at 480-541-1368 or KSD@kyrene.org if not all your children who are enrolled in a Kyrene school are listed on the letter.

Sincerely,



Chris Herrmann
Chief Financial Officer
July 2024

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, audiotape, 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/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.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;*
2. *fax: (202) 690-7442; or*
3. *email: program.intake@usda.gov.*

