



Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our school offers healthy meals each day. For school year 2024-2025, we are utilizing Minnesota’s Free School Meals Program with a Community Eligibility Provision. All students can get one breakfast and one lunch free of charge each day at school. Although no application is required to receive this free meal benefit, filling out this Alternate Application for Educational Benefits is still important! Your child(ren) may qualify for other benefits like reduced fees at school. Your application may also help the school qualify for education funds, discounts, and other meal programs.

To apply, complete the enclosed Alternate Application for Educational Benefits and return it to:

**301 3rd St. NW
Austin, MN 55912**

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 qualify without reporting household income. Alternatively, children can qualify if their household income is within the maximum income shown for their household size on the instructions.

COMMON QUESTIONS:

I get WIC or Medical Assistance. Can my children qualify? Children in households participating in WIC or Medical Assistance do not automatically qualify. Children may be eligible 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 you to complete an application.

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, 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.

If you have other questions or need help, call our office at (507)460-1821.

Sincerely,

Tanner Lange RD, LD

Director, Food & Nutrition Services

Instructions for Completing the Alternate Application for Educational Benefits

Complete the *Alternate Application for Educational Benefits* for school year 2024-25 if any of the following apply:

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), or

One or more children in the household are foster children (a welfare agency or court has legal responsibility for the child), or

Total household income (gross earnings, not take-home pay) should be at the marked number below or lower to qualify for Reduced or Free Meals based on the 2024-25 school year. To see the breakdown of income guidelines to qualify for Reduced or Free meals, please review the [Household Income Guidelines for School Year 2024-25](#).

Maximum Total Income

Household size	\$ Per Year	\$ Per Month	\$ Twice Per Month	\$ Per 2 Weeks	\$ Per Week
1	27,862	2,323	1,162	1,073	537
2	37,815	3,153	1,577	1,456	729
3	47,768	3,982	1,992	1,839	920
4	57,721	4,811	2,406	2,221	1,111
5	67,674	5,641	2,821	2,604	1,303
6	77,627	6,470	3,236	2,987	1,494
7	87,580	7,300	3,651	3,370	1,686
8	97,533	8,129	4,065	3,753	1,877
Add for each additional person (this rate is to qualify for <i>Reduced</i> Meals)	9,953	830	415	383	192
Add for each additional person (this rate is to qualify for <i>Free</i> Meals)	6,994	583	292	269	135

Children and Foster Status: List all children in the household in Section 1.

- Indicate that a child is in foster care by checking the box.
- Include any regular income, for example supplemental security income (SSI), to children other than foster children. Do not list occasional earnings like babysitting.

Case Number: Complete Section 2 if any household member currently participates in one of the programs listed in that section. If Section 2 is completed, skip Section 3 (adult names and incomes).

Adults/Household Incomes: List all adult household members, whether related or not, in Section 3. Include an adult who is temporarily away, such as a student away at college. Do not complete Section 3 if a case number was provided in Section 2, or if the application is for foster children only.

List each adult household member's gross incomes (not take-home pay) and how often each income is received. For example, "W" for Weekly.

- List gross incomes before deductions.
- If an income varies, list the amount usually received.
- For farm/self-employment income only, list net income after subtracting business expenses.
- Examples of "other income" to include in the last column are farm/self-employment, Veterans benefits and disability benefits.
- Check the "No Income" column after a person's name if they have no income.

Do not include as income: foster care payments, federal education benefits, MFIP payments, combat pay, or value of assistance received from SNAP, WIC, FDPIR or Military Privatized Housing Initiative.

Signature: The form must be signed and dated by an adult household member in Section 5.

Alternate Application for Educational Benefits School Year 2024-25 State and Federally Funded Programs

Economic Status for MARSS Reporting: Community Eligibility Provision 2 and 3 No Meal Program

Complete one application per household for all children. Please use pen (not a pencil).

Mail or return completed form to: **Austin Public Schools 301 3rd St. NW, Austin, MN 55912**

1. Names of all Children in Household including Foster Children. Attach additional page if necessary.

Last Name	First Name	Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)	Grade	School	Check if Foster Child	Any Regular Income to Child Example SSI
						\$ _____ per
						\$ _____ per
						\$ _____ per
						\$ _____ per
						\$ _____ per
						\$ _____ per
						\$ _____ per

2. Benefits (if applicable)

If any household member receives benefits from a program listed below, write in the name of the person and case number, check the appropriate box, and skip Section 3.

Name: _____ Case Number: _____

- Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

Medical Assistance and WIC do *not* qualify.

- Child is the legal responsibility of a welfare agency or court. (If **all** children applied for are foster children, skip Sections 3 and 4.)

3. Names of all Adults in Household (all household members not listed in Section 1).

Include all adults living in your household, related or not. Attach an additional page if necessary.

Names of All Adult Household Members (First and Last)	Gross Earnings from Working at Jobs					Are you Self-Employed or a Farmer?			Any Other Gross Income						
List all Household members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. Include children who are temporarily away at school or in college.	Weekly	Bi-weekly	2x Month	Monthly	Report income before deductions or taxes in whole dollars (no cents).	Monthly	Yearly	Net income from Farm or Self-Employment. Do not duplicate elsewhere.	Weekly	Bi-weekly	2x Month	Monthly	SSI, Unemployment, Public Assistance, Child Support, and others on Page 2		
		<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"/>	<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"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	
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		<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"/>	<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"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	

Household Incomes: Write in each gross income and how often it is received: **weekly (W)**, **bi-weekly** (every two weeks) (**BW**), **twice per month (TM)**, **monthly (M)**. Do *not* write in **hourly pay**. If income fluctuates, write in the amount normally received. Attach an additional page if necessary.

4. This information may be shared with Minnesota Health Care Programs to identify children who are eligible for Minnesota health insurance programs. Leave the box blank to allow sharing of information. See page 3 for more information.

- Do not share information with Minnesota Health Care Programs.

I certify (promise) that all information furnished on this application is true and correct, that all household members and incomes are reported, that application is made so that the school may receive state funds based on the information on the application, that school officials may verify the information on the application, and that deliberate misrepresentation of the information may subject me to prosecution under applicable state and federal criminal statutes.

Signature of Adult Household Member (required): _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____ Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ZIP: _____

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Total Household Size: _____ Total Income: \$ _____ per _____

Approved (check all that apply): Case Number – Free Foster – Free Income – Free Income – Reduced-Price

Denied: Incomplete Income Too High Other: _____

Signature – Determining Official: _____ Date: _____

Change Status To: _____ **Reason:** _____ **Withdrawn:** _____

Office Use Only

Date Verification Sent: _____ Response Due: _____ Second Notice: _____

Result: Free to Reduced-Price Free to Paid Reduced-Price to Free Reduced-Price to Paid

Reason for Change: Income Case number not verified Foster not verified Refused Cooperation Other

Signature Verifying Official: _____ Date: _____

Signature Confirming Official: _____ Date: _____

Privacy Act Statement/How Information Is Used

We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced-price economic status for purposes of state reporting. 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 economic status is also recorded on a statewide computer system used to report student data to the Minnesota Department of Education as required by state law. The Minnesota Department of Education uses this information to: (1) administer state and federal programs, (2) calculate compensatory revenue for public schools; and, (3) evaluate the quality of the state's educational program.

Children who are eligible for free and reduced-price economic status may be eligible for Minnesota Health Care Programs. Your child's eligibility status may be shared with Minnesota Health Care Programs, unless you tell us not to share your information by checking the box in Section 4 of the application. You are not required to share information for this purpose and your decision will not affect your child's economic status as determined on this for.