



Office of Child Nutrition

Non-CEP Schools Free and Reduced-Price Meals

August 1, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Fayette County Public Schools (FCPS) Child Nutrition Department offers healthy meals every school day.

Non-CEP School Student Meal Prices for 2024-2025 School Year			
Eligibility	Meal	Pre-K – 5 th grade	6 th grade- 12 th grade
Paid	Breakfast	\$2.00	\$2.00
	Lunch	\$2.75	\$3.00
Free / Reduced	Breakfast	\$0	\$0
	Lunch	\$0	\$0

This packet includes information about the 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 GET FREE MEALS?**

- All children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (**SNAP**), the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (**FDPIR**) or the Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (**K-TAP**), are eligible for free meals.
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
- Children who have met the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- Children may receive free or reduced-price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 2024-2025			
Household Size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$27,861	\$2,322	\$536
2	\$37,814	\$3,152	\$728
3	\$47,767	\$3,981	\$919
4	\$57,720	\$4,810	\$1,110
5	\$67,673	\$5,640	\$1,302
6	\$77,626	\$6,469	\$1,493
7	\$87,579	\$7,299	\$1,685
8	\$97,532	\$8,128	\$1,876
Each additional person:	+\$9,953	+\$830	+\$192

The chart to the left shows the reduced-price guidelines.

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

2. **SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS?** No, but please read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification letter, contact Jessica Morgison, FCPS Child Nutrition Office *immediately*; jessica.morgison@fayette.kyschools.us or (859) 422-2152.
3. **CAN I APPLY ONLINE?** Yes! You are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application if you are able. The online application has the same information/requirements as the paper application. This process is *more confidential* and is *the quickest way to get approved*. Visit www.bit.ly/FCPSMealApp (QR Code on back) to begin or to learn more about the

online application process. Contact the programs assistant at jessica.morgison@fayette.kyschools.us or 422-2152, if you have any questions about the online application or are having trouble accessing it.

4. **MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE?** Yes. Your child's previous application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless the school/nutrition office told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not send in a new application that is approved for benefits or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for meals.
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 ASAP to the school cafeteria manager or to Jessica Morgison- Programs Assistant, FCPS Child Nutrition Office, 400 Springhill Drive, Lexington, KY 40503.
6. **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, please contact the student's school to request information from the Homeless/ MCKV point-of-contact or a district Migrant/Advocate Recruiter at 422-0501 or 422-0460.
7. **I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please send in an application.
8. **WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?** Yes. We may also ask you to send documentation 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 a child nutrition department official. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Michelle Coker, FCPS Child Nutrition Office, 422-2156 or michelle.coker@fayette.kyschools.us.
11. **MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A US CITIZEN?** Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced-price meals. When applying, parents should mark the box that they do not have a social security number. The information given on this application will only be used to determine eligibility for the child nutrition's free/reduced-price meal assistance program.
12. **WHAT IF MY INCOME IS 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 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. **WHAT IF THERE ISN'T 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.
16. **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 community assistance services or call 1-855-306-8959.

If you have other questions or need help, contact Jessica Morgison, Child Nutrition Programs Assistant at (859)422-2152, (859)422-2156- main office, or jessica.morgison@fayette.kyschools.us.

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Scan to get directly to Meal Assistance application!