

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT
FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Sayreville Public Schools** offers healthy meals every school day. **Breakfast costs \$1.60 for grades K-5, \$1.85 for grades 6-8 and \$2.10 for grades 9-12.** Lunch costs **K-5 \$2.85, 6-8 \$3.35, and \$3.60 9-12.** **Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals.** Reduced price is **\$.0** for breakfast and **\$.0** for lunch.

| | FULL PRICE | | | REDUCED PRICE | | |
|----------------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Elementary | Middle | High | Elementary | Middle | High |
| National School Lunch | \$2.85 | \$3.35 | \$3.60 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| School Breakfast | \$1.60 | \$1.85 | \$2.10 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| After School Snack | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Special Milk Program | N/A | N/A | N/A | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Not Applicable |
| Split Session Milk Program | N/A | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Not Applicable |
| N/A - Not Applicable | | | | | | |

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

1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from NJ **SNAP** or **NJ TANF/WorkFirst-NJ** 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 meet 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. 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 | | | |
|--|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Effective from July 1, 2024 - June 30, 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 family member: | + \$9,953 | + \$830 | + \$192 |

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 haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail the school division **homeless liaison or migrant coordinator**.

3. *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 one of your children's schools.

4. *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 got carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact **your school**

5. *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 requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. www.pcva.us to begin or TO learn more about the online application process. Contact your school **if you have any questions about the online application**.

6. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? Yes. Your child's 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 told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
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?* 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 school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: DR. RICHARD LABBE, ADDRESS: 298 ERNSTON ROAD PARLIN, NJ 08859 ; PHONE NUMBER: (732)525-5200 EXT: 5224.
11. *MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN?* You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced price meals.
12. *WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME?* List the amount that you normally 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, or receive Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance payments, 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 NJ **SNAP** or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office, call 1-800-687-9512 or go to <https://oneapp.dhs.state.nj.us/default.aspx>. You can also contact NJ FamilyCare or Medicaid at 1-800-701-0710 or njfamilycare.org for information regarding health insurance for your family.

If you have other questions or need help, call **(732)525-5252 ext:8127**

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard Labbe
Superintendent

Use of Information Statement

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires that we use information from this application to see who qualifies for free or reduced price meals. We can only approve complete forms. We may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them deliver program benefits to your household. Inspectors and law enforcement may also use your information to make sure that program rules are met. Please be sure to provide the last four numbers of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application. If the adult does not have one, 'Check if no Social Security Number.' Applications for a foster child do not need to list a Social Security number. Applications for children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) do not need to list a Social Security number. Some children qualify for free meals without an application. Please contact your school to get free meals for a foster child, and children who are homeless, migrant, or runaway.

Non-discrimination Statement

The contact information below is solely to file a complaint of discrimination 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/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:

*MAIL: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

*Do not mail applications
to this address, only complaints
of discrimination.

FAX: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
EMAIL: program.intake@usda.gov