

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

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **New Providence School District** offers healthy meals every school day at the prices listed below. **Your children may qualify for free meals.**

	Regular Lunch			Premium Lunch		
	Elementary	Middle	High	Elementary	Middle	High
Lunch	\$4.00	\$4.40	\$4.40	\$5.15	\$5.40	\$5.40

This packet includes an application for free 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 **NJ SNAP** or **NJ TANF/WorkFirst-NJ**
  - Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court
  - Children participating in their school’s Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
  - Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant
  - Children may receive free meals if your household’s income is within the limits on the Federal & New Jersey Expanded Income Eligibility Guidelines at the end of this document.
  
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 your school, 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. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? *New Providence School District does not have an online application. You can download a fillable .pdf on the website at [2025-2026 Application](#)*
  
5. 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. If you do not send in a new application that is approved by the school, your child will be charged the full price for meals.*
  
6. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? *Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free meals. Please send in an application.*
  
7. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? *Yes. We ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.*
  
8. 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.*
  
9. 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: **James Testa, 356 Elkwood Ave, New Providence, NJ 07974 (908) 464-9050 x4223***
  
10. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? *Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free meals.*
  
11. 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.*

12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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 or call 1-800-687-9512 or go to [nj.gov/humanservices/njsnap/apply/ways/](http://nj.gov/humanservices/njsnap/apply/ways/). You can also contact NJ Family Care or Medicaid at 1-800-701-0710 or [www.njfamilycare.org](http://www.njfamilycare.org) for information regarding health insurance for your family. For the WIC Program, call 1-800-328-3838 or go to [www.nj.gov/health/fhs/wic](http://www.nj.gov/health/fhs/wic).

If you have other questions or need help, call **(908) 464-9050 x 4239**

Sincerely,

Emily Mellow

Secretary, Department of Special Services

New Providence School District



# Federal & New Jersey Expanded Income Eligibility Guidelines

Effective School Year 2024-2025: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

## Federal Free Meals

Participants qualify for free meals if the household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
- 1 -	19,578	1,632	816	753	377
- 2 -	26,572	2,215	1,108	1,022	511
- 3 -	33,566	2,798	1,399	1,291	646
- 4 -	40,560	3,380	1,690	1,560	780
- 5 -	47,554	3,963	1,982	1,829	915
- 6 -	54,548	4,546	2,273	2,098	1,049
- 7 -	61,542	5,129	2,565	2,367	1,184
- 8 -	68,536	5,712	2,856	2,636	1,318
Each add'l household member add	6,994	583	292	269	135

## Federal Reduced Price Meals

Participants qualify for reduced price meals if the household income falls at or below the limits on this chart and above the limits on the Federal Free Meals chart.

Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
- 1 -	27,861	2,322	1,161	1,072	536
- 2 -	37,814	3,152	1,576	1,455	728
- 3 -	47,767	3,981	1,991	1,838	919
- 4 -	57,720	4,810	2,405	2,220	1,110
- 5 -	67,673	5,640	2,820	2,603	1,302
- 6 -	77,626	6,469	3,235	2,986	1,493
- 7 -	87,579	7,299	3,650	3,369	1,685
- 8 -	97,532	8,128	4,064	3,752	1,876
Each add'l household member add	9,953	830	415	383	192

## New Jersey Expanded Income Guidelines (NJEIE)

New Jersey participants qualify for meals at no charge if the household income falls at or below the limits on this chart and above the limits on the Federal Reduced Price Meal chart.

Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
- 1 -	33,735	2,812	1,406	1,298	649
- 2 -	45,786	3,816	1,908	1,761	881
- 3 -	57,837	4,820	2,410	2,225	1,113
- 4 -	69,888	5,824	2,912	2,688	1,344
- 5 -	81,940	6,829	3,415	3,152	1,576
- 6 -	93,991	7,833	3,917	3,616	1,808
- 7 -	106,042	8,837	4,419	4,079	2,040
- 8 -	118,093	9,842	4,921	4,543	2,272
Each add'l household member	12,052	1,005	503	464	232

**Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 weeks x 26, Twice a month x 24, and Monthly x 12**