



**School Year 2026 -2027:**

**Frequently Asked Questions: Free and Reduced Priced School Meals**

**United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

**National School Lunch Program (NSLP)**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Timberlane Regional School District offers healthy meals every school day under the USDA National School Lunch Program. The district has priced meals as follows: Breakfast costs **\$1.90 (Elementary), \$2.15 (Middle & High School)**; lunch costs **\$3.55 (Elementary), \$4.05 (Middle School), and \$4.30 (High School)**. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals under this program. If your household qualifies for reduced-priced meals, Breakfast would be at no cost, and lunch would be priced at \$0.40. Below are some common questions and answers to aid in the process of determining your child’s eligibility.

1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from **NH SNAP** or **NH TANF**, 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 set by the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines in the chart below.

**Income Guidelines for Child Nutrition Programs: July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027**

Household size	Annual	Monthly	Twice per month	Every two weeks	Weekly
1	29,526	2,461	1,231	1,136	568
2	40,034	3,337	1,669	1,540	770
3	50,542	4,212	2,106	1,944	972
4	61,050	5,088	2,544	2,349	1,175
5	71,558	5,964	2,982	2,753	1,377
6	82,066	6,839	3,420	3,157	1,579
7	92,574	7,715	3,858	3,561	1,781
8	103,082	8,591	4,296	3,965	1,983
Each additional person:	10,508	876	438	405	203



## NH School Administrative Unit 106 | Timberlane Regional School District

30 Greenough Road, Plaistow, NH 03865 Voice: (603) 382-6119 Fax: (603) 382-3334

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2. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILD(REN) 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 **Ginger Drechsel at 603-382-6119 ext. 2223** or [Ginger.Drechsel@timberlane.net](mailto:Ginger.Drechsel@timberlane.net) .
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: **Andrea Huntley at 30 Greenough Rd. Plaistow, NH 03865, [Andrea.Huntley@timberlane.net](mailto:Andrea.Huntley@timberlane.net) , or 603-382-6119 ext. 2226.**
4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILD(REN) 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 **Andrea Huntley at 30 Greenough Rd. Plaistow, NH 03865, [Andrea.Huntley@timberlane.net](mailto:Andrea.Huntley@timberlane.net) , or 603-382-6119 ext. 2226** immediately.
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. Visit [www.timberlane.net](http://www.timberlane.net) to begin or to learn more about the online application process. Contact **Andrea Huntley at 30 Greenough Rd. Plaistow, NH 03865, [Andrea.Huntley@timberlane.net](mailto:Andrea.Huntley@timberlane.net) , or 603-382-6119 ext. 2226** if you have any questions about the online application.
6. MY APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE?
  - Yes. The 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 has informed you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILD(REN) GET FREE MEALS?
  - Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please apply for meals through the income application.
8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?
  - Yes. 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: **Kelly Salovitch at 30 Greenough Rd. Plaistow, NH 03865, 603-382-6119, or [Kelly.Salovitch@timberlane.net](mailto:Kelly.Salovitch@timberlane.net) .**



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### 11. CAN 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 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 zero. 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 bonus 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. Contact **Andrea Huntley at 30 Greenough Rd. Plaistow, NH 03865, [Andrea.Huntley@timberlane.net](mailto:Andrea.Huntley@timberlane.net)**, or **603-382-6119 ext. 2226** to receive a second application.

### 16. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP; ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR?

- To find out how to apply for **SNAP, TANF, FDPIR** or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call **603 271-9700 or 844-275-3447**.

If you have other questions or need help, call **603-382-6119**.

Sincerely,

Andrea Huntley

Free & Reduced Coordinator

[Andrea.Huntley@timberlane.net](mailto:Andrea.Huntley@timberlane.net)

603-382-6119 ext. 2226

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.*

**School Year 26-27 USDA Household Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals**

**APPLY ONLINE:**  
**RETURN TO (School/District Name):**  
**ADDRESS:**

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

**STEP 1** List ALL children, infants, and students up to and including grade 12. Attach another sheet of paper if you need space for more names.

List ALL children in the household. Do not forget to list infants, children attending other schools, children not in school, and children not applying for benefits. This includes children not related to you in your household.

Child's First Name	MI	Child's Last Name	Grade	Foster Child	Migrant	Runaway	Homeless
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Check all that apply

If you checked any of these boxes, please refer to the Application Instruction's Step 1: Part C & Part D.

**STEP 2** Do any household members (including you) participate in: SNAP or TANF? Please note: Medicaid does NOT qualify households for meal benefits in NH.

**NO** → Go to STEP 3.     
  **YES** → Write case number here and proceed to STEP 4.     
 CASE NUMBER (NOT EBT NUMBER):      
 SELECT ONE:     
  SNAP     
  TANF

\*\*Household must submit backup documentation if providing a case number i.e. Notice of Decision (NOD) from NH DHHS\*\*

**STEP 3** List ALL household members and income for each member (before taxes and deductions)

**A. All Adult Household Members (Anyone who is living with you and shares income and expenses, even if not related, including you.)**  
 List all Adult Household Members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. For each Household Member listed, if they receive income, report total gross income (before taxes and deductions) for each source in whole dollars (no cents) only. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0'. If you enter '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report.

Name of Adult Household Members (First and Last)	Earnings from Work	How often received?					Public Assistance, Child Support, Alimony	How often received?				Pensions, Retirement, Social Security, SSI, VA Benefits, All Other	How often received?			
		Weekly	Every 2Weeks	2xMonth	Monthly	Annual		Weekly	Every 2Weeks	2xMonth	Monthly		Weekly	Every 2Weeks	2xMonth	Monthly
<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Total Household Members (Children and Adults)      
 Last Four Numbers of Social Security Number of Primary Wage Earner or other Adult Household Member (If Applicable)

Check if no Social Security Number

**Please see application's back for list of income sources.**

**B. Child Income**  
 Sometimes children in the household earn or receive income.  
 Include the TOTAL income (before taxes and deductions) received by ALL children listed in STEP 1 here.     
 \$  Child Income     
  Weekly   
  Every 2Weeks   
  2xMonth   
  Monthly   
  Annual

**STEP 4** Contact information and adult signature.      **RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL:**      Insert school address here

"I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true, and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal funds, and that school officials may verify (confirm) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws."

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Print Name of Adult Signing the Form	Signature of Adult	Today's Date			
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Mailing Address (if available)	City	State	Zip	Phone (optional)	Email (optional)

**SOURCES AND EXAMPLES OF INCOME**

For additional information on income, please refer to the instructions that accompany this application.

Sources of Income			Examples of Income for Children
<b>Earnings from Work</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Salary, wages, cash bonuses, tips, commissions</li> <li>Net income from self-employment (farm or business)</li> </ul> <b>If you are in the U.S. Military:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA, or privatized housing allowances)</li> <li>Allowances for of-base housing, food, and clothing</li> </ul>	<b>Public Assistance/Alimony/Child Support</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unemployment benefits</li> <li>Workers' compensation</li> <li>Supplemental Security Income (SSI)</li> <li>Cash assistance from State or local government</li> <li>Alimony payments</li> <li>Child support payments</li> <li>Veterans' benefits</li> <li>Strike benefits</li> </ul>	<b>Pensions/Retirement/All other sources of income</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social Security/Disability (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits)</li> <li>Private Pensions or disability benefits</li> <li>Income from trusts or estates</li> <li>Annuities</li> <li>Investment income</li> <li>Earned interest</li> <li>Rental income</li> <li>Regular cash payments from outside household</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages</li> <li>A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits</li> <li>A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits</li> <li>A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money</li> <li>A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust</li> </ul>

**OPTIONAL**

Children's ethnic and racial identities. This information is kept confidential and may be protected by the Privacy Act of 1974.

We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals.

**Ethnicity (check one):**  Hispanic or Latino (A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish Culture or origin, regardless of race)  Not Hispanic or Latino

**Race (check one or more):**  American Indian or Alaska Native  Asian  Black or African American  Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander  White

**Return this completed form to your child's school. \*Do not mail, fax, or email completed applications to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.**

**DO NOT FILL OUT**

For school use only.

**Annual Income Conversion:** Weekly × 52, Every 2 Weeks × 26, Twice a Month × 24, Monthly × 12. Do not annualize income to determine eligibility unless more than one income frequency is listed.

Total Income	How often?					Household size	Categorical Eligibility	Eligibility		
<input type="text"/>	Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	2xMonth	Monthly	Annual	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Free	Reduced	Denied
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Determining Official's Signature	Date	Confirming Official's Signature	Date	Verifying Official's Signature	Date					

**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.

**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, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the State or local Agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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**Return completed form to your child's school.**