MONONA GROVE
SCHOOL DISTRICT

5301 Monona Drive, Monona, WI 53716 P: 608-316-1917 F: 608-221-7688 www.mononagrove.org

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2026-2027

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Monona Grove School District offers healthy meals every school day. Meal prices can be found in the School Nutrition Fees section of the District's website. Your children may qualify for free meals or reduced-price meals. Reduced-price meals are free at breakfast and cost $0.40 for lunch. This packet includes an application for free or reduced-price meal benefits and detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?
   - Children in households receiving benefits from FoodShare, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or W-2 cash benefits are eligible for free meals if listed on the application.
   - Foster children 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 qualify for free or reduced-price meals if household income is at or below the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines (below).

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 2026-27			
Household size	Yearly ($)	Monthly ($)	Weekly ($)
1	29,526	2,461	568
2	40,034	3,337	770
3	50,542	4,212	972
4	61,050	5,088	1,175
5	71,558	5,964	1,377
6	82,066	6,839	1,579
7	92,574	7,715	1,781
8	103,082	8,591	1,983
Each additional person:	10,508	876	203

2. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY? Do members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing? Does your family move seasonally? Are there children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If yes, and you haven't been told your children will get free meals, contact Andrea Fresen at 608-316-1924 or andrea.fresen@mgschools.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 can't approve incomplete applications, so fill out all required information. Return the completed application to:

   Monona Grove School District
   Attn: School Nutrition
   5301 Monona Drive
   Monona, WI 53716

4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS? Read the letter carefully and follow instructions. If your letter says you

qualify for free meals, no application is needed. If any children were missing from your eligibility notification, contact Terri O'Neil at 608-221-7660 or school.nutrition@mgschools.net. If your household was notified students are eligible for reduced-price meals, complete an application to potentially qualify for free meals based on household size and income. Letters are issued annually. If you haven't received a letter after July 1, 2026, complete an application promptly.

5. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? Yes! Complete an online application if possible. It has the same requirements and asks for the same information as the paper application. Visit the Monona Grove School District website to log in to the Infinite Campus Parent Portal to start or learn more. Contact Terri O'Neil at 608-221-7660 or school.nutrition@mgschools.net with application questions.

6. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? Yes. Last year's application is valid through October 15, 2026, or until new eligibility is determined. Submit a new application unless your child is already approved for the new school year. Without an approved application or notice of eligibility for free meals, your child will be charged full price.

7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households with WIC participation may qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on income. Please submit an application.

8. MY CHILD PARTICIPATES IN BADGERCARE PLUS OR MEDICAID. CAN MY CHILD GET FREE MEALS? Children in Badgercare Plus or Medicaid households may qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on income. Please submit an application.

9. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may request written proof of household income.

10. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER? Yes, apply any time during the school year. For example, if a parent or guardian becomes unemployed or experiences financial hardship, children may become eligible if household income drops below the limit.

11. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION? Eligibility follows Federal guidelines. Contact school officials for more information or request a formal hearing by calling or writing to Kristin Sobocinski at 608-221-7660 or kristin.sobocinski@mgschools.net.

12. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. Citizenship is not required for free or reduced-price meal applications.

13. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? Report your usual income. For example, if you normally earn $1000 per month but recently made $900 due to missed work, report $1000. Include regular overtime, but not occasional overtime. If income has decreased (job loss or reduced hours), report current income.

14. WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT? Use "0" for income not received. Leaving income fields blank will be counted as zeroes. Be careful when leaving income fields blank.

15. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY? Include basic pay, cash bonuses, and cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing. Exclude Military Housing Privatization Initiative housing allowances and combat pay from deployment.

16. WHAT IF THERE IS NOT ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY? List additional household members on a separate sheet. Names must match the application. The number of household members must match the names included on the application.

17. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? Contact local assistance offices or call 1-800-362-3002 to learn about FoodShare and other assistance benefits.

18. IF THIS APPLICATION IS APPROVED WILL MY CHILD RECEIVE SUMMER EBT BENEFITS? Yes. Approval for Free or Reduced-Price Meals qualifies your household for Summer EBT benefits. This provides money on an EBT card for each student to supplement household food during summer. Learn more at https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/programs/SummerEBT.

For questions or assistance, call 608-221-7660.