

2026-27 School Meal Guidelines

Fayette County Public Schools (FCPS) will be participating in the **National School Lunch Program and/or the School Breakfast Program**. As part of this program, the district's Child Nutrition Department will offer healthy meals every in-school day. Breakfast will cost **\$2.50**; Lunch will cost **\$3.50** (Prekindergarten- Grade 5) and **\$3.75** (Grades 6-12). Your children may qualify for free or reduced-price meals. All students who qualify for Free or Reduced-price meals will receive a daily breakfast and lunch meal at no cost to their families.

Students attending **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Schools**, will receive meals at no cost due to the implementation of the Community Eligibility Provision for school year 2026-2027. Students can participate in these meal programs without paying a fee or submitting a household application. *Educational Benefits Forms (EBF) may be requested from CEP schools to determine eligibility for various additional state and federal program benefits that children may be able to qualify for.*

Approved CEP schools for the 2026-27 school year (48 sites): Arlington, Audrey Grevious Center, Booker T. Washington, Breckinridge, Brenda Cowan, Bryan Station Middle, Bryan Station High, Cardinal Valley, Carter G Woodson Academy, Coventry Oaks, Crawford, Deep Springs, Dixie, Family Care Center, Fayette Preschool Center, Frederick Douglass, George Washington Carver STEM Academy for Boys, Harrison, Henry Clay High, James Lane Allen, Julius Marks, Lansdowne, Leestown, Lexington, Liberty, MLK Academy, Mary Todd, Meadowthorpe, Millcreek, Morton, Northern, Opportunity Middle College, Picadome, Rise STEM Academy for Girls, Russell Cave, Sandersville, Southern Elementary, Southern Middle, Squires, Stables, Success Academy, Tates Creek Elementary, Tates Creek Middle, Tates Creek High, The Learning Center, William Wells Brown, Winburn, Yates.

Qualifications for children to receive free or reduced-price meals include belonging to a household whose income is at or below the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines, belonging to a household that receives public assistance, or if the child is homeless, migrant, runaway, foster, or participates in a federal Head Start or Even Start Pre-Kindergarten program.

Household size and income criteria are used to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits if the household does not receive assistance or the children are not in the other categories mentioned above. Children can get free or reduced-price meals if the household's gross income falls at or below the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guideline chart. Citizenship is not required to apply for free and reduced meals.

2026-27 FAMILY INCOME SIZE SCALE						
For Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced Price Meals or Milk						
	ANNUAL INCOME LEVEL			MONTHLY INCOME LEVEL		
Family (Household) Size	Free <i>Must be at or below figure listed</i>	Reduced Price <i>Must be at or between figures listed</i>		Free <i>Must be at or below figure listed</i>	Reduced Price <i>Must be at or between figures listed</i>	
1	\$20,748	\$20,749	\$29,526	\$1,729	\$1,730	\$2,461
2	\$28,132	\$28,133	\$40,034	\$2,345	\$2,346	\$3,337
3	\$35,516	\$35,517	\$50,542	\$2,960	\$2,961	\$4,212
4	\$42,900	\$42,901	\$61,050	\$3,575	\$3,576	\$5,088
5	\$50,284	\$50,285	\$71,558	\$4,191	\$4,192	\$5,964
6	\$57,668	\$57,669	\$82,066	\$4,806	\$4,807	\$6,839
7	\$65,052	\$65,053	\$92,574	\$5,421	\$5,422	\$7,715
8	\$72,436	\$72,437	\$103,082	\$6,037	\$6,038	\$8,591

For each additional household member, add:	\$7,384	10,508	\$616	\$876
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To apply for free or reduced-price meals, households can fill out the application unless the household has already received notification that their children are approved for free meals this year. Application details are being distributed to all households with a letter informing households of the availability of free and reduced-price meals for their children and what is required to complete the application. Meal Assistance applications are available online at: <http://bit.ly/FCPSMealApp> , or parents may contact the FCPS Child Nutrition Department for additional resources at: <http://fcps.net/food>. Only one application is required for all children in the household, including any foster children, and the information provided on the application will be used to determine eligibility and verification of data. Applications may be verified at any time during the school year by the school or other program officials. An application for free or reduced-price benefits cannot be approved unless it contains complete eligibility information as indicated on the application and instructions. In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age, or disability. Household applications require a statement of total household income, household size and names of all household members. If a steady income is not received, the amount normally received should be listed. If a household member receives no income, a zero should be indicated on the application. Only the last 4 digits of a Social Security Number (or an indication of “none”) must be provided on the application. The adult household member must also sign the application certifying that the information is correct. Military personnel should report all income, cash bonuses, and cash allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing as income.

Families can apply for benefits at any time during the school year.. If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the Child Nutrition office. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the Federal Guidelines. Contact Child Nutrition Programs Assistant, at (859) 422-2152 or email jessica.morgison@fayette.kyschools.us at any time, for questions or to request application details.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price policy, Jessica Morgison, FCPS Child Nutrition Programs Assistant, will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the official's ruling may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official informally. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to Michelle Coker, FCPS Child Nutrition Director, 400 Springhill Dr, Lexington, KY 40503, (859) 422-2156.

If benefits were approved for children in the previous school year, that eligibility status is good for the first 30 operating days of the new school year. Before that time period ends, you must provide a new application unless the school has informed you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not send in a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for meals after the 30th operating day of the new school year.

When known to FCPS Child Nutrition Department, households will be notified of their children’s “Direct Certification- (DC)” eligibility for free meals if they are members of households receiving assistance from the:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP);
- Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP);
- Medicaid* (Household composition and income criteria must be met for free meal eligibility- not all Medicaid students qualify for meal assistance.)

An application is not required for free meal benefits for DC Assistance Program participants when the household is notified by the school that household children have been directly certified for free meals. All children in the household are eligible for free meal benefits upon this notification. If any children residing in the household were not listed on the notice of eligibility, or if a household does not receive a notice of eligibility, the household should contact Child Nutrition’s Programs Assistant: (859)422-2152 or email jessica.morgison@fayette.kyschools.us , to request to have the free meal benefits extended to them.

All children in households receiving benefits from **SNAP** or **KTAP** can get free meals regardless of your income. Households with any member who is receiving **SNAP** or **KTAP** benefits may submit an application with abbreviated information as indicated on the application and instructions if they do not receive a notice from the school directly certifying children for free meals. Categorical eligibility for free meal benefits is extended to all children in a household when the application lists a case number for **SNAP** or **KTAP** for any household member. To find out how to apply for **SNAP** or other assistance benefits, call 1-855-306-8959 or visit <https://kynect.ky.gov>.

Participants in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals, but they will need to turn in an application including household size and total income.

When known to FCPS Child Nutrition Department, households will also be notified of any child's eligibility for free meals if the individual child is considered "Other Source Categorically Eligible", because the child is categorized, as defined by law as:

- Foster
- Homeless,
- Migrant,
- Runaway,
- Enrolled in a federal Head Start, or Early Start class

If you believe children in your household should be considered "Other Source Categorically Eligible and haven't been notified of free meals, please contact the district's Child Nutrition Office.

The household should contact the school about questions concerning possible eligibility due to identification with one of the "Other Source Categorically Eligible" descriptions listed above. A foster child is categorically eligible for free meals and may be included as a member of the foster family if the foster family chooses to also apply for benefits for other children. Including children in foster care as household members may help other children in the household qualify for benefits. If non-foster children in a foster family are not eligible for free or reduced-price meal benefits, an eligible foster child will still receive free benefits.

Households notified of their children's eligibility must contact the district's Child Nutrition office if the household chooses to decline the free meal benefits.

For more information, you may call **Jessica Morgison, FCPS Child Nutrition Programs Assistant** at (859) 422-2152 or e-mail at jessica.morgison@fayette.kyschools.us.

For language assistance please contact our office to request a Language Line Interpreter. If you need additional support, please contact our district's Interpreting and Translating Department at (859)422-0607 or -0081.

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

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, audiotape, 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.

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