Wissahickon School District

ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD LETTER
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS or THE SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM (SMP)

July 29, 2026

Dear Wissahickon Families:

Healthy meals are essential to students' ability to focus on learning. Wissahickon School District offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast and lunch meals are available at all six Wissahickon schools**. During the 2026-2027 year, all Wissahickon students may receive free breakfast each school day.** School lunch costs $2.65 per meal. Students eligible for free or reduced-price school meals will not be charged for lunch.

Additionally, students eligible to receive free or reduced meals are also eligible to receive SUN Bucks (Summer EBT) program the following summer (2026), without the need to apply. SUN Bucks is operated through the Department of Human Services. For more information on SUN Bucks visit http://www.dhs.pa.gov/SunBucks.

We invite our families to apply for free school lunches. A qualified application may provide additional federal program benefits. To be eligible for free lunch meals, families need to complete an application unless they participate in a qualified benefits program (e.g., SNAP, TANF, or certain Medical Assistance).

Apply Now: https://www.schoolcafe.com/WissahickonSD

School Meals – What's in a school meal?

What's in a school meal? Outlined below, a description of a complete school meal that qualifies as free.

- **Breakfast** is free for ALL students this school year. Must take at least 1 fruit or juice
- **Elementary and Middle School Lunch**: one (1) grain item; one (1) protein item; one (1) half-cup fruit choice; two (2) half-cup vegetable choices; one (1) cup of milk.
- **High School Lunch:** one (1) grain item; one (1) protein item; two (2) half-cup fruit choices; two (2) half-cup vegetable choices; one (1) cup of milk.

A la carte Items: Students may purchase a la carte food items and snacks. These food items do not qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. For example, if a student wants only pizza for lunch, then pizza is considered an a la carte item, and it is not a complete school meal. This does not qualify for free or reduced-price meals. A complete meal would include pizza, fruit, vegetable, and milk. Additionally, snacks such as chips, cookies, and ice cream are not part of the school meal. All students may purchase a la carte items or snacks.

Free/Reduced-Price School Meal Application Frequently Asked Questions

This letter includes provides important information about the Free/Reduced-Price School Meal Application. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

If you have received a NOTICE OF DIRECT CERTIFICATION letter for free meals, do not complete the application. But do let the school know if any children in your household are not listed on the NOTICE OF DIRECT CERTIFICATION letter you received.

1. ***WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS OR SPECIAL MILK?***
   - All children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly the Food Stamp Program) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits are eligible for free meals.
   - Foster children who 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 Reduced-Price Guidelines—July 1, 2026–June 30, 2027					
Family Size	Annually	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
For each additional family member add:					
	$10,508	876	438	405	203

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 contact Kevin Witchey, Home and School Visitor: kwitchey@wsdweb.org.

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. You may apply online at: https://www.schoolcafe.com/WissahickonSD, or you may request a paper application from the school at any time. Return the completed application to: Wissahickon School District, 601 Knight Road, Ambler, PA 19002.

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 read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification letter, contact the Wissahickon Administrative Office, (215) 619-8000.

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. Click here to apply: https://www.schoolcafe.com/WissahickonSD **or visit** the PA Department of Human Services website at www.compass.state.pa.us.

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 30 operating school 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. Send in an 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/or reduced-price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.

0. ***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: Wissahickon School District, attention: School Meal Application, 601 Knight Road, Ambler, PA 19002; (215) 619-8000.

1. ***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 or reduced-price meals.

2. ***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.

3. **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, write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.

4. ***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.

5. **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, or email ajones@wsdweb.org.

6. ***My family needs more help. Are there other programs we might apply for?*** To find out how to apply for **SNAP** or other assistance benefits, visit www.compass.state.pa.us, contact your local county assistance office, or call 1-800-692-7462.

If you have other questions or need help, please call the Wissahickon Administrative Office, (215) 619-8000.

Sincerely,
Wissahickon School District

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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 https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf , (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:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

(2) Fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

(3) **Email:** program.intake@usda.gov

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