

CHESTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

2026-2027 School Meals and Summer EBT Application Packet

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. CHESTER TWP BD OF ED offers healthy meals every school day at the prices listed below. Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals and Summer EBT benefits.

Meal	Elementary	Middle	High	Reduced Price
School Lunch	\$5.00	\$5.25	N/A	\$0.00
School Breakfast	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

This packet includes a School Meals and Summer EBT Application, detailed instructions, and the health-care information-sharing form.

2026-2027 Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines (Free/Reduced & Summer EBT)

Household	Annual	Monthly	Twice/Month	Every 2 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
+	\$10,508	\$876	\$438	\$405	\$203

Each additional household member: add the amount shown in the final row.

- 1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS AND SUMMER EBT BENEFITS?** Children may qualify through NJ SNAP, NJ TANF/WorkFirst-NJ, qualifying Medicaid/direct certification, foster care, Head Start, homeless/migrant/runaway status, or household income within the applicable limits.
- 2. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY?** If members of your household lack a permanent address, stay together in a shelter, hotel or other temporary housing, relocate seasonally, or a child has left a prior family/household, contact the district homeless liaison or migrant coordinator.
- 3. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD?** No. Use one School Meals and Summer EBT Application for all students in your household. Return the completed application to one of your children's schools.
- 4. SHOULD I APPLY IF I RECEIVED A LETTER SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED?** No. Read the eligibility notice carefully. If a child in your household is missing from the notice, contact the school immediately.
- 5. CAN I APPLY ONLINE?** If an online application is available, you may use it instead of a paper application. The same household and income information is required.
- 6. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED A NEW ONE?** Yes. Eligibility must be renewed for the new school year unless the district notifies you that your child is already eligible.
- 7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS AND SUMMER EBT?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible. Submit an application unless you have already received an eligibility notice.
- 8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?** Yes. The district may ask for written proof of household income or other eligibility information.
- 9. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER?** Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if household size or income changes.
- 10. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION?** Contact the Hearing Official: Peter Frascella, 50 North Road, BLDG 4, Chester, NJ 07930; (908) 879-7373 ext. 7315.
- 11. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN?** Yes. Citizenship is not required to apply for school meal benefits.
- 12. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME?** Report the amount you normally receive. If you recently lost a job or had hours reduced, report your current income.
- 13. WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT?** Enter 0 for income when appropriate. Blank income fields may be treated as zero.
- 14. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT INCOME DIFFERENTLY?** Basic pay and cash bonuses are generally reported. Certain housing and deployment-related payments may be excluded under program rules.

15. WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY? List additional household members on a separate sheet and attach it to the application.

16. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS? For NJ SNAP or other assistance, contact your local assistance office. NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid and WIC may also be available to eligible families.

If you have questions or need help, call (908) 879-7373.

Sincerely,
Peter Frascella
Business Administrator

2026-2027 School Meals and Summer EBT Application

For Standard & CEP Schools/Sites • Complete one application per household

STEP 1 — List ALL children, infants, and students up to and including grade 12.

First Name	MI	Last Name	School	Grade	Foster	Migrant/Runaway	Homeless

STEP 2 — Does any household member currently participate in SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR?

☐ NO — Go to STEP 3 ☐ YES — Case Number: _____

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

Adult Household Member	Earnings from Work	Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony	Pensions/Retirement/Other	How Often?	Child Income

Total household members (children and adults): _____ Last four digits of Social Security Number of primary wage earner/adult: _____ ☐ No SSN

STEP 4 — Contact information and adult signature.

Street Address: _____ Apt: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I certify 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 and State benefits and may be verified.

Printed Name of Adult: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return completed form to your child's school.

How To Apply for School Meals and Summer EBT

2026-2027 Instructions

STEP 1: LIST ALL CHILDREN IN THE HOUSEHOLD

Include infants, children not in school, children attending other schools, and students through grade 12. Enter first name, middle initial, last name, school and grade. Mark foster, migrant, runaway, or homeless status when applicable.

STEP 2: ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

If anyone in the household currently participates in SNAP, TANF/WorkFirst-NJ, or FDPIR, mark YES and enter the case number. Then proceed to the signature section as directed by the application.

STEP 3: HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS AND INCOME

List all adult household members, including college students considered adults for program purposes. Report gross income before taxes and deductions. Include earnings from work; public assistance, child support and alimony; pensions/retirement; and other income. Report how often each amount is received. Include child income when applicable.

STEP 4: CONTACT INFORMATION AND SIGNATURE

An adult household member must sign the application. Provide the last four digits of the Social Security Number of the primary wage earner or another adult household member, or check the box indicating no Social Security Number. Return the signed application directly to the school.

Income examples include wages/salaries/tips, self-employment net income, unemployment/workers compensation, Social Security, pensions, child support/alimony, and other regularly received income. Do not count income specifically excluded by program rules.

Summer EBT note: Federal Summer EBT eligibility is tied to federal free/reduced-price eligibility. New Jersey expanded-income eligibility may provide free school meals but does not itself establish federal Summer EBT eligibility.

2026-2027 Income Eligibility Reference

Effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027

2026-2027 Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines (Free/Reduced & Summer EBT)

Household	Annual	Monthly	Twice/Month	Every 2 Weeks	Weekly
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Each additional household member: add the amount shown in the final row.

The table above shows the federal reduced-price/Summer EBT ceiling (185% of the federal poverty guideline). Households at or below the applicable amount may qualify for federal free or reduced-price meal benefits depending on income and other eligibility factors.

New Jersey also operates expanded income eligibility for school meals. The district will apply the current State eligibility rules when determining school meal benefits.

Sharing Information with Medicaid / NJ FamilyCare

2026-2027

Because health insurance is important to children's well-being, New Jersey law allows the district to share limited eligibility information with Medicaid and NJ FamilyCare unless you tell us not to. Completing the School Meals and Summer EBT Application does not automatically enroll your children in health insurance.

☐ **No! I DO NOT want information from my School Meals and Summer EBT Application shared with Medicaid or NJ FamilyCare.**

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Address: _____

Return this form to your child's school ONLY if you do NOT wish your information to be shared with Medicaid or NJ FamilyCare.