Westport Community Schools
Public Media Release

Westport Community Schools Offers Another Year of Meals at No Cost for Students

Westport Community Schools will be participating in the **National School Lunch Program and/or the School Breakfast Program.** As part of this program, Westport Community Schools will offer healthy meals every school day. The Massachusetts legislature has provided funding to make meals available at no cost to all students during school year 2025-2026, regardless of household income. However, families should still complete a Meal Benefit Application as this provides data for key funding for academic resources and may also connect families to additional benefits. This data will also support the additional funds provided by the Commonwealth for this pilot.

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.

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 2024-2025						
	Maximum Household Income Eligible for Free Meals			Maximum Household Income Eligible for Reduced Price Meals		
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	$19,578	$1,632	$377	$27,861	$2,322	$536
2	$26,572	$2,215	$511	$37,814	$3,152	$728
3	$33,566	$2,798	$646	$47,767	$3,981	$919
4	$40,560	$3,380	$780	$57,720	$4,810	$1,110
5	$47,554	$3,963	$915	$67,673	$5,640	$1,302
6	$54,548	$4,546	$1,049	$77,626	$6,469	$1,493
7	$61,542	$5,129	$1,184	$87,579	$7,299	$1,685
8	$68,536	$5,712	$1,318	$97,532	$8,128	$1,876
Each additional person:	$6,994	$583	$135	$9,953	$830	$192

To apply for free or reduced-price meals, households can fill out the application and return it to the school unless the household has already received notification that their children are approved for free meals this year. Application forms 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 on the application. Applications also are available in all school offices or via the website http://westport.schoollunchapp.com/.

Only one application is required for all children in the household and the information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining 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.

Families can apply for benefits at any time. If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. 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 your child's school or Michelle A. Rapoza at mrapoza@westportschools.org or 508-636-1140 at any time to request an application.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price policy, **Michelle A. Rapoza, SBA** will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the official may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to **Dr. Fran Roy, Superintendent of Schools at WCSDistrict@westportschools.org**

When known to **Westport Community Schools** households will be notified of their children's eligibility for free meals if they are members of households receiving assistance from the:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP);