

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Chester Public School District offers healthy meals every school day. **Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals.** Reduced price is **\$0.40** for lunch. This packet includes an application for free or reduced price meal benefits, Income Eligibility Guidelines, a set of detailed instructions, and a Sharing Information Form. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?
 - All children in households receiving benefits from **[State SNAP]**, **[the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)]** or **[State TANF]**, are eligible for free meals.
 - Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court 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 the attached **Income Eligibility Guidelines Chart**.
2. 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. Please return the completed application to one of your children's schools.*
3. 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 please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions.
4. 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 few 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.
5. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please send in an application.
6. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
7. 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 reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
8. 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.

If you have other questions or need help, call **908-879-7373 x 7313**.

Sincerely,

Christina VanWoert
Superintendent of Schools

Application #

School District Chester Public School District

FISCAL YEAR 2016

FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS HOUSEHOLD APPLICATION

Part 1. Children in School (Include foster children)

Names of all children enrolled in this school district only (First, Middle Initial, Last)	School Name	Grade or ID Number	Check if a foster child
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>

Part 2. If any member of your household receives NJ SNAP (food stamps) or TANF provide the name and case number for the person who receives benefits and skip to Part 5. If no one receives these benefits, skip to Part 4.
 Name _____ Case number _____

Part 3. If the child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call your school, homeless liaison, or migrant coordinator.
 Homeless Migrant Runaway

Part 4. Total Household Gross Income—You must tell us how much and how often for each person; CHECK IF NO INCOME

1. Name (List everyone in household - include students listed above)	2. List gross income and how often it was received Example: \$100/monthly \$100/twice a month \$100/every other week \$100/weekly				3. Check if NO Income
	Earnings from work before deductions	Welfare, child support, alimony	Retirement, Social Security, SSI, VA	All Other Income	
	How Often?	How Often?	How Often?	How Often?	
1.	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part 5. Signature and Social Security Number (Adult must sign)

An adult household member must sign the application. If Part 4 is completed, the adult signing the form must also list the last four digits of his or her Social Security Number or mark the "I do not have a Social Security Number" box. (See Privacy Act Statement)

I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the school will get Federal funds based on the information I give. I understand that school officials may verify (check) the information. I understand that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted.

Sign here: X _____ Print name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Last 4 Digits of Social Security Number: ***-**-____ I do not have a Social Security Number

Part 6. Children's ethnic and racial identities (optional)

Choose one ethnicity: Hispanic/Latino Not Hispanic/Latino
 Choose one or more (regardless of ethnicity): Asian American Indian or Alaska Native Black or African American White Native Hawaiian or other Pacific islander



Don't fill out this part. This is for school use only.

Error Prone

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 Weeks x 26, Twice A Month x 24 Monthly x 12

Total Income: _____ Per: Week, Every 2 Weeks, Twice A Month, Month, Year Household size: _____

Categorical Eligibility: _____ Date Withdrawn: _____ Eligibility: Free _____ Reduced _____ Denied _____ Reason: _____

Determining Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Confirming Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____ Verifying Official Signature: _____ Date: _____

For State Agency Use

F to R	R to F	D to F	SS #	SB Temp
F to D	R to D	D to R	Income	Other

Privacy Act Statement: This explains how we will use the information you give us.

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We MAY share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

Non-discrimination Statement: The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

If your household received benefits from NJ SNAP (food stamps) or TANF, follow these instructions:

Part 1: List all student names and the name of school for each child – include foster children and check the box if a foster child

Part 2: List the case number for any household member (including adults) receiving NJ SNAP or TANF benefits.

Part 3: Skip this part.

Part 4: Skip this part.

Part 5: Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are not necessary.

Part 6: Answer this question if you choose to.

If no one in your household, including any foster children, gets NJ SNAP or TANF benefits and if any child in your household is homeless, a migrant or runaway, follow these instructions:

Part 1: List all student names and the name of school for each child – include foster children and check the box if a foster child

Part 2: Skip this part.

Part 3: If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call your school, homeless liaison, migrant coordinator.

Part 4: Complete only if a child in your household isn't eligible under Part 3. See instructions for All Other Households.

Part 5: Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are not necessary if you didn't need to fill in Part 4.

Part 6: Answer this question if you choose to.

If you are ONLY applying for FOSTER CHILD/CHILDREN, follow these instructions:

If all children in the household are foster children:

Part 1: List all foster children and the school name for each child. Check the box indicating the child is a foster child.

Part 2: Skip this part.

Part 3: Skip this part.

Part 4: Enter income for foster child only or check no income box in column 3.

Part 5: Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are not necessary.

Part 6: Answer this question if you choose to.

ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS, including foster children, including WIC households, follow these instructions:

Part 1: List all student names and the name of school for each child – include foster children and check the box if a foster child

Part 2: If the household does not have a case number, skip this part.

Part 3: If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call your school, homeless liaison, migrant coordinator. If not, skip this part.

Part 4: Follow these instructions to report total household income from this month or last month.

- Box 1—Name: List all household members, including students listed in Part 1.

- Box 2 —Gross Income and How Often It Was Received: For each household member, list each type of income received for the month. You must tell us how often the money is received—weekly, every other week, twice a month or monthly. For earnings, be sure to list the gross income, not the take-home pay. Gross income is the amount earned before taxes and other deductions. You should be able to find it on your pay stub or your boss can tell you. For other income, list the amount each person got for the month from welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's benefits (VA benefits), and disability benefits. Under All Other Income, list Worker's Compensation, unemployment or strike benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, and any other income. Do not include income from SNAP, FDPIR, WIC, Federal education benefits and foster payments received by the family from the placing agency. For ONLY the self-employed, under Earnings from Work, report income after expenses. This is for your business, farm, or rental property. Do not include income from SNAP, FDPIR, WIC or Federal education benefits. If you are in the Military Privatized Housing Initiative or get combat pay, do not include these allowances as income.

- Box 3 — Check the no income for any household members (adults and children) that do not receive any income

Part 5: Adult household member must sign the form and list the last four digits of their Social Security Number (or mark the box if s/he doesn't have one).

Part 6: Answer this question if you choose.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017
(As announced by the United States Department of Agriculture)

HOUSE-HOLD SIZE	FREE MEALS OR MILK					HOUSE-HOLD SIZE	REDUCED PRICE MEALS				
	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly		Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	15,444	1,287	644	594	297	1	21,978	1,832	916	846	423
2	20,826	1,736	868	801	401	2	29,637	2,470	1,235	1,140	570
3	26,208	2,184	1,092	1,008	504	3	37,296	3,108	1,554	1,435	718
4	31,590	2,633	1,317	1,215	608	4	44,955	3,747	1,874	1,730	865
5	36,972	3,081	1,541	1,422	711	5	52,614	4,385	2,193	2,024	1,012
6	42,354	3,530	1,765	1,629	815	6	60,273	5,023	2,512	2,319	1,160
7	47,749	3,980	1,990	1,837	919	7	67,951	5,663	2,832	2,614	1,307
8	53,157	4,430	2,215	2,045	1,023	8	75,647	6,304	3,152	2,910	1,455
Each Additional Household Member	5,408	451	226	208	104	Each Additional Household Member	7,696	642	321	296	148

When all income is reported with the same frequency i.e., all reported as weekly (W), every 2 weeks (2W), monthly (M), or twice a month (2M), total the income and the number of household members and compare it to this chart. **Cannot annualize if all income reported is the same frequency.**

When income is reported with different frequencies, annualize the number, total the income and the number of household members and compare it to the annual income column on this chart.

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 weeks x 26, Twice a month x 24, and Monthly x 12

Error Prone: Weekly: \$0 - \$25 below the free or reduced price income eligibility limit.
 Every two weeks or twice a month: \$0 - \$ 50 below the free or reduced price income eligibility limit.
 Monthly: \$0 - \$100 below the free or reduced price income eligibility limit.
 Annually: \$0 - \$1200 below the free or reduced price income eligibility limit.

SHARING INFORMATION WITH MEDICAID or NJ FAMILYCARE

Dear Parent/Guardian:

If your children get free or reduced price school meals, they may also be able to get free or low-cost health insurance through Medicaid or NJ FamilyCare. Children with health insurance are more likely to get regular health care and are less likely to miss school because of sickness.

Because health insurance is so important to children's well-being, **the law allows us to tell Medicaid and NJ FamilyCare that your children are eligible for free or reduced price meals, unless you tell us not to.** Medicaid and NJ FamilyCare only use the information to identify children who may be eligible for their programs. Program officials may contact you to offer to enroll your children. Filling out the Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application does not automatically enroll your children in health insurance.

If you do not want us to share your information with Medicaid or NJ FamilyCare, fill out the form below and send in (Sending in this form will not change whether your children get free or reduced price meals).

- No! I DO NOT** want information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application shared with Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Program (NJ FamilyCare)

If you checked no, fill out the form below to ensure that your information is NOT shared for the child(ren) listed below:

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.