

Worcester Public Schools
Free and Reduced Price School Meals
Letter to Household / Application Instructions

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. The Worcester Public Schools offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$.25; lunch costs \$1.50. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. **Reduced price is \$.15 for breakfast and \$.40 for lunch.**

1. Do I need to fill out an application for each child? No. Complete the application to apply for free or reduced price meals. 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. **Return the completed application to the school of your youngest child.**

2. Who can get free meals? All children in households receiving benefits from Food Stamps, SNAP or TANF, and most foster children can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free price meals if your household income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines.

3. Can homeless, runaway and migrant children get free meals? If you have not been told your children will get free meals, please call **Judy Thompson at the Office of Child Study, 25 Chatham Street, Room 211 at 508-799-3175 and/or e-mail ThompsonJ@worc.12.ma.us** to see if they qualify.

4. Who can get reduced price meals? Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Eligibility Income Chart, shown on this application.

5. Should I fill out an application if I received a letter this school year saying my children are approved for free meals? Please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call your child's school if you have questions.

6. My child's application was approved last year. Do I need to fill out another one? YES. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of the 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 child(ren) get free meals? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please fill out an application.

8. Will the information I give be checked? Yes and we may also ask you to send written proof.

9. If I don't qualify now, may I apply later? Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year.

10. 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: **Donna Lombardi, Director of School Nutrition, 20 Irving Street, Worcester, MA 01609 and/or e-mail lombardid@worc.k12.ma.us.**

11. May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen? Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced price meals.

(continued on back page)

12. Who should I include as members of my household? You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends). You must include yourself and all children who live with you.

13. 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 not include it if you only work overtime sometimes.

14. We are in the military. Do we include our housing allowance as income? If you get an off-base housing allowance, it must be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income.

15. My spouse is deployed to a combat zone. Is his/her combat pay counted as income? No, if the combat pay is received in addition to his/her basic pay because of his/her deployment and it was not received before he/she was deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.

16. My family needs more help. Are there other programs we might apply for? To find out how to apply for Massachusetts SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance at 1-800-249-2007 and/or Project Breads Food Source hotline at 1-800-645-8333.

If you have other questions or need help, call **508-799-3132**
Si necesita ayuda, por favor llame al teléfono: 508-799-3132
Si vous voudriez d'aide, contactez nous au numero: 508-799-3132

Sincerely,
Donna M. Lombardi, M.Ed., R.D.
Director of School Nutrition

The Worcester Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer/Educational Institution and does not discriminate regardless of race, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, or homelessness. The Worcester Public Schools provides equal access to employment and the full range of general, occupational and vocational education programs. For more information relating to Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action, contact Stacy DeBoise Luster, Human Resource Manager, 20 Irving Street, Worcester, MA 01609 – 508-799-3020.

Please call the main office at the school if you would like this document translated into a language other than English.

Por favor, contate a secretaria central da escola caso deseje que este documento seja traduzido para o português.

Por favor, llame a la oficina central de la escuela si usted desea que este documento sea traducido al español.
Ju lutem telefononi zyren qendrore te shkolles ne se deshironi ta kini kete dokument te perkthyer ne nje gjuhe tjeter
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Xin gọi điện thoại cho văn phòng nhà trường nếu quý vị muốn tài liệu này được dịch ra một ngôn ngữ khác hơn tiếng Anh

MEAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING

A household member is any child or adult living with you.

IF YOUR HOUSEHOLD RECEIVES BENEFITS FROM FOOD STAMPS, SNAP, OR TANF OR THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS (FDPIR), FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

Part 1: List all household members, the school name for each child, and the case number for any household member (including adults) receiving Food Stamps, SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR benefits.

Part 2: Skip this part.

Part 3: Skip this part.

Part 4: Skip this part.

Part 5: Sign the form. A Social Security Number is not necessary.

Part 6: Answer this question if you choose to.

IF NO ONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD RECEIVES FOOD STAMPS, SNAP, OR TANF BENEFITS AND IF ANY CHILD IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS HOMELESS, A MIGRANT OR RUNAWAY, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

Part 1: List all household members and the school name for each child.

Part 2: Check the appropriate box.

Part 3: Skip this part.

Part 4: Complete only if a child in your household is not eligible under Part 2. See instructions for All Other Households.

Part 5: Sign the form. A Social Security Number is not necessary if you did not need to fill in Part 4.

Part 6: Answer this question if you choose to.

**IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR A FOSTER CHILD,
FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:**

Part 1: Use a separate application for each foster child. List the child's name, school, and, if the child has no income, check the box "no income."

Part 2: Skip this part.

Part 3: Check the box and list the child's personal use monthly income, if any.

Part 4: Skip this part.

Part 5: Sign the form. A Social Security Number is not necessary.

Part 6: Answer this question if you choose to.

**ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS, INCLUDING WIC HOUSEHOLDS,
FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS ON BACK PAGE:**

**ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS, INCLUDING WIC HOUSEHOLDS,
FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:**

Part 1: List all household members and the school name for each child. For any person, including children, with no income, you must check the “No Income Box.”

Part 2: Check the appropriate box, if any.

Part 3: 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 with income.

- **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), disability benefits, and *All Other Income* sources.
 - 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.
 - For ONLY the self-employed, under *Earnings From Work*, report income after expenses. This is for your business, farm, or rental property. If you are in the Military Privatized Housing Initiative or get combat pay, do not include these allowances as income.

Part 5: Adult household member must sign the form and list Social Security Number (or mark the box if s/he does not have one).

Part 6: Answer if you choose.

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Worcester Public Schools

FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS FAMILY APPLICATION

Part 1. ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMEBERS (Use a separate application for each foster child)

Names of Household Members (First, Middle Initial, Last)	School Name for Each Child	Grade	Food Stamp or TANFcase number for any member of the household. If you list a case number, skip to Part 5.	CHECK IF NO INCOME
				<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>

Part 2. If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call you're the homeless liaison, Judy Thompson at 508-799-3175 Homeless Migrant Runaway

Part 3. Foster Child If this application is for a child who is the legal responsibility of a welfare agency or court, check this box and then list the amount of the child's personal use monthly income: \$ _____. Check if no income. Skip to Part 5.

Part 4. Total Household Gross Income—You must tell us how much and how often

1. NAME (List all household members with income)	2. GROSS INCOME AND HOW OFTEN IT WAS RECEIVED			
	Earnings from work before deductions	Welfare, child support, alimony	Pensions, retirement, Social Security, SSI, VA benefits	All Other Income
<i>(Example)</i> <i>Jane Smith</i>	\$199.99/weekly	\$149.99/every other week	\$99.99/monthly	\$ ____ / ____
	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____
	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____
	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____
	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____
	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____

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 his or her Social Security Number or mark the "I do not have a Social Security Number" box. (See Privacy Act Statement on the back of this page.)

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: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone Number: _____

Social Security Number: _____ - _____ - _____ I do not have a Social Security Number

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

Choose one ethnicity: <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic/Latino	Choose one or more (regardless of ethnicity): <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
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Don't fill out this part. This is for school use only.

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: _____

Temporary: Free _____ Reduced _____ Time Period: _____ (expires after _____ days)

Determining Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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

Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at for below the limits on this chart.

FEDERAL INCOME CHART			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	20,036	1,670	386
2	26,955	2,247	519
3	33,874	2,823	652
4	40,793	3,400	785
5	47,712	3,976	918
6	54,631	4,553	1,051
7	61,550	5,130	1,184
8	68,469	5,706	1,317

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 social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Food Stamp Program, 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: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to *USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410* or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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