

# THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

## Fact Sheet for New York State: 2009-2010

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### All students can eat lunch through the National School Lunch Program!

Public schools, non-profit private schools, and residential childcare institutions may operate the National School Lunch Program. Federal and state government reimbursement rates cover food and preparation costs associated with each meal served, and higher per-meal reimbursement rates exist for 'severe need' schools.

Each school lunch must meet meal pattern requirements set by the USDA.

**Free or Reduced-Price Lunch:** Free or reduced-price lunch is available to students from households that meet the income eligibility criteria provided below. To apply for free or reduced-price school meals, households need to submit an application to the school. Prior to the start of the school year, school districts distribute applications to households. Children from households receiving Food Stamp Program and/or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families benefits automatically qualify for free school meals when they submit their 'direct certification letter' to the school (direct certification letters are mailed to households prior to the school year by the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance).

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### INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES: 2009-2010

<b>FREE Eligibility Scale (130% of Poverty)</b>			<b>REDUCED-PRICE Eligibility Scale (185% of Poverty)</b>		
Household Size	Monthly	Yearly	Household Size	Monthly	Yearly
1	\$1,174	\$14,079	1	\$1,670	\$20,036
2	1,579	18,941	2	2,247	26,955
3	1,984	23,803	3	2,823	33,874
4	2,289	28,665	4	3,400	40,793
5	2,794	33,527	5	3,976	47,712
6	3,200	38,389	6	4,553	54,631
For each additional household member, add	+ \$406	+ \$4,862	For each additional household member, add	+ \$577	+ \$6,919

### 2009-2010 SCHOOL LUNCH REIMBURSEMENT RATES

	Federal	Federal "Severe Need"	State
<b>Free</b>	\$2.68	\$2.70	\$0.0599
<b>Reduced-Price</b>	2.28	2.30	0.1981
<b>Paid</b>	0.25	0.27	0.0599

**For More Information About the National School Lunch Program:** Contact the Nutrition Consortium of NYS by e-mail: [rachel.rupright@nutritionconsortium.org](mailto:rachel.rupright@nutritionconsortium.org) or phone: (518) 436-8757 x21 or contact the NY State Education Department online at: [www.nysed.gov](http://www.nysed.gov) or phone: (518) 473-8781.

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