

How and When Can I Apply For My Child?

- ✓ Contact your child's school for a free and reduced-price meal application.
- ✓ It's best to fill out and return the application at the beginning of the school year. **But, you can ask for one and submit it at any time of the school year.**
- ✓ One application per household lasts for the entire school year.
- ✓ Applications must be signed by the child's parent/guardian and include the parent/guardian's social security number. If the parent/guardian does **NOT** have social security number, write in "**none**" on the application. **Your child can still qualify for free or reduced-price meals.**

- ✓ If your household gets food stamp and/or TANF benefits, an application is **NOT** needed when you submit your household's **direct certification letter** to the school. Also, migrant, homeless, or runaway children do not need an application. Ask your child's school food service department, homeless liaison, or migrant education program for more information.
- ✓ If your child does not qualify for free or reduced-price school meals now, **try again if your income changes, you start receiving certain types of public assistance, or if your household size increases.**

For more information, please talk to your child's school or call the New York State Education Department at: (518) 473-8781.

**The Nutrition Consortium of NYS
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Albany, New York 12205**

(518) 436-8757

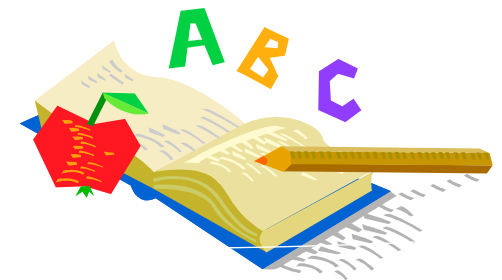
www.nutritionconsortium.org

The Nutrition Consortium of NYS is a statewide, private, non-profit organization dedicated to alleviating hunger for residents of New York State.

**NUTRITION CONSORTIUM
OF NEW YORK STATE**

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**YOUR CHILD MAY BE
ABLE TO EAT FREE OR
REDUCED-PRICE
MEALS AT SCHOOL...**



**...EATING
BREAKFAST AND
LUNCH AT SCHOOL
HELPS YOUR CHILD
GROW AND LEARN!**

School Nutrition Programs Help Your Child Grow and Learn!

Each school day, your child's school is serving healthy, nutritious meals to students through the school nutrition programs.

The **School Breakfast Program** and the **National School Lunch Program** are government funded meal programs.

All meals must meet nutritional standards: which means your child is always eating a healthy meal at school.

WHY EAT SCHOOL MEALS?



Helps save you money and makes your food budget go further.

Gives your child fuel to learn and energy to play.

Helps your child focus on school work and earn higher test scores.

THE BASICS OF BREAKFAST AND LUNCH AT SCHOOL:

ALL children can eat breakfast and lunch at school.

The price paid for meals is based on the child's household income. Some children pay a full price determined by the school district. Low and middle-income children can eat meals for free or at a reduced-price with approved paperwork.

In NYS, reduced-price school breakfast and school lunch cost 25¢.

Children who qualify for free or reduced-price meals are not publically identified.

IS MY CHILD ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS?

There are 2 ways:

1. If your household receives food stamp and/or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) benefits, your child can eat free school meals with approved paperwork. Migrant, homeless, or runaway children can also eat free school meals when the school and food service department are notified.

OR

2. If your household's total income is below a certain amount, your child can eat for free or at a reduced-price with an approved application.

See the charts below for income amounts:

FREE Eligibility Scale			REDUCED-PRICE Eligibility Scale		
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:	+ \$406	+ \$4,862	For each additional household member:	+ \$577	+ \$6,919