

Free and Reduced Meal Program

What is the National School Lunch Program?

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is a federally funded meal program which provides both food and cash donations to subsidize the cost of school lunch in participating schools. The NSLP was established by President Harry Truman in 1946 and is presently operating in more than 96,000 public and nonprofit private schools and residential child care centers. The program is managed at the federal level by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service and at the state level by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

In order to receive the benefits of the NSLP, participating schools must offer free or reduced-price meals to eligible children. The schools must also comply with nutritional requirements outlined by the federal government. These guidelines follow the Dietary Guidelines for Americans which recommend no more than 30 percent of a person's calories come from fat and less than 10 percent from saturated fat. Lunch menus must also be designed to provide children with 1/3 of the key nutrients they need each day (calories, protein, Vitamins A and C, calcium, and iron).

Can my child eat breakfast at school?

In addition to participating in the National School Lunch Program, District 227 also operates a daily breakfast program under the National School Breakfast Program (NSBP) which functions in a very similar manner.

How do children qualify to receive free or reduced-price meal benefits?

Any child at a participating school may purchase a meal through the NSLP or NSBP. Some children may qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on their household income. Children who do not qualify are required to pay a full price although their meals are still subsidized to some extent.

How to apply for free or reduced-price meal benefits? Where to apply?

Applications for free or reduced-price meal benefits may be picked up at any District 227 main office or food service department or contact 708-679-5728 for an application to be mailed to you. Return the completed application to:
Rich Township High School District 227
Attn: Food Service Department
20000 Governors Drive – Suite 200
Olympia Fields, IL 60461

Who is eligible?

- If you now receive Food Stamps or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) for your child(ren), your child can receive free meal benefits.
- A foster child may receive free regardless of household income.
- If your total household income is the same or less than the amounts on the Income Guidelines below, your child(ren) can receive free or reduced-price meal benefits.

INCOME GUIDELINES (Based on Gross Earnings) Effective from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007

Household Size	Weekly	Monthly	Annual
1	\$349	\$1,511	\$18,130
2	470	2,035	24,420
3	591	2,560	30,710
4	712	3,084	37,000
5	833	3,608	43,290
6	954	4,132	49,580
7	1,075	4,656	55,870
8	1,196	5,180	62,160
Each Additional Family Member	+121	+525	+6,290

How to apply?

- If you currently receive Food Stamps or TANF for the child(ren) you are applying for, you need to include:
 1. The child(ren)'s name
 2. A Food Stamp or TANF case ID number (Link card numbers can not be accepted)
 3. Signature of an adult household member.
- If you are applying for a foster child, the application must include:
 1. The child's name (Each foster child must have a separate applicaton)
 2. The child's personal use income
 3. Signature of an adult household member.
- If you are applying with household income the application must include:
 1. The child(ren)'s name
 2. The names of all household members
 3. The amount of gross income (before deductions) for each person and how often it is received (weekly, monthly, twice a month, etc.)
 4. Signature of an adult household member.
 - 5.

Verification

Your eligibility may be checked by school officials at any time during the school year. School Officials may ask you to submit papers showing that your child(ren) should receive free or reduced-price meal benefits.

Fair Hearing

You may talk to school officials if you do not agree with the school's decision on your application or the results of verification. You also may ask for a fair hearing. You may do this by calling or writing:

Ilandus Hampton, Director of Fiscal Services
20000 Governors Drive – Suite 200
Olympia Fields, IL 60461
708-679-5719

Confidentiality

School officials use the information on the application only to decide if your child(ren) should receive free or reduced-price meal benefits. Parent or legal guardian signature is required on the application to allow school officials to release the application information and Social Security number for purpose of identifying household members for other services.

Reapplying

You may apply for free or reduced-price meal benefits any time during the school year. If you are not eligible now but have a change such as: A decrease in household income, an increase in household size, or become unemployed or receive Food Stamps or TANF for your child(ren), you may complete an application at that time.

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, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.