



Press Release

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Income Guidelines for National Free and Reduced Priced Meals for Schools and the Child and Adult Care Food Program are Announced

July 1, 2021

LANSING – The Michigan Department of Education has announced the household income guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for free and reduced-price meals and free milk through the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, Special Milk, and Child and Adult Care Food Programs. The income guidelines are effective from now through June 30, 2022.

Families should contact their school, school district, childcare center, or family day care home sponsor to find out whether it participates in these programs.

Schools, childcare centers, adult day care centers, and family day care home sponsors will provide a form for applying for free or reduced-price meals. Only one application is required per household. For School Year (SY) 2021-2022, schools participating in the seamless summer option (SSO) will offer all meals free. Most participating centers and all participating family childcare homes will provide meals to all enrolled children without a separate charge.

Adults, children, or foster children who are recipients of various programs such as Michigan’s Family Independence Program, Food Assistance Program, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, or who are enrolled in Head Start, an at-risk afterschool center, or an emergency shelter automatically qualify for free meals. Households with incomes less than or equal to the following guidelines qualify for free or reduced-price meals or free milk.

Total Family Size	Scale for Free Meals or Free Milk		Scale for Reduced Price Meals	
	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly
1	\$16,744	\$1,396	\$23,828	\$1,986
2	\$22,646	\$1,888	\$32,227	\$2,686
3	\$28,548	\$2,379	\$40,626	\$3,386
4	\$34,450	\$2,871	\$49,025	\$4,086
5	\$40,352	\$3,363	\$57,424	\$4,786
6	\$46,254	\$3,855	\$65,823	\$5,486
7	\$52,156	\$4,347	\$74,222	\$6,186
8	\$58,058	\$4,839	\$82,621	\$6,886

For each additional family member add:

\$5,902 \$492 \$8,399 \$700

An application to a school, childcare center, adult day care center, or family day care home sponsor can be approved if it contains complete documentation of household income or documentation of current participation in Michigan's Family Independence Program, Food Assistance Program, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations. Information supplied on an application for free or reduced-price meals may be verified at any time. An appeal procedure is available for households where applications are denied.

Participating schools, childcare centers, adult day care centers, and family day care home sponsors accept applications for free or reduced-price meals at any time during the year. A household may qualify for free or reduced-price meals due to a temporary loss of income, such as a period of unemployment.

If a doctor has determined that a child or adult has a disability, and the disability would prevent the participant from eating the regular school or center-based meal, the school or center will make reasonable substitutions to meal and/or snacks for participants who are considered to have a disability or medical need that restricts their diet. This is done on a case-by-case basis. A doctor's statement, including prescribed diet and/or substitution, must be submitted to the food service department of the school, childcare facility, or adult care facility.

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