# **National School Lunch Program**

Application for Free and Reduced Meals
Wilmington City Schools
2023-2024





This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

#### Dear Parent/Guardian:

- 1. Children need healthy meals to learn. Wilmington City Schools offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.50 in primary schools and \$1.75 in secondary schools; lunch costs \$3.00 in primary and \$3.50 in secondary schools. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. \*\*NEW FOR 23/24\*\* Reduced price is \$0.00 for breakfast and \$0.00 for lunch in all schools. This packet includes an application for free or reduced price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.
- 2. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?
  - All children in households receiving benefits from supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) or Ohio Works First (OWF) are eligible for free meals.
  - Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
  - Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
  - Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
  - Children may receive free or reduced price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

FEDERAL EL	IGIBILITY INCOME CHAI	RT For School Year 2023	3-2024
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$26,973	\$2,248	\$519
2	36,482	3,041	702
3	45,991	3,833	885
4	55,500	4,625	1,068
5	65,009	5,418	1,251
6	74,518	6,210	1,434
7	84,027	7,003	1,616
8	93,536	7,795	1,799
Each additional person:	9,509	793	183

- 3. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY? Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail Jim Brady at 937-382-1641 <a href="mailto:jim.brady@wilmington.k12.oh.us">jim.brady@wilmington.k12.oh.us</a>.
- 4. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? **No.** *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: WHS, Attn: Jodie Havert, 300 Richardson Place, Wilmington, OH 45177.
- 5. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? No, but please read the letter you got carefully and

- follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact Jodie Havert at 937-283-7250 or <a href="Jodie.havert@wilmington.k12.oh.us">Jodie.havert@wilmington.k12.oh.us</a> immediately.
- 6. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? No. We do not offer online applications at this time.
- 7. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? Yes. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
- 8. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC <u>may</u> be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please send in an application.
- 9. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
- 10. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER? Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
- 11. 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: Curt Bone, Director of Business Operations, 341 South Nelson Ave., Wilmington, OH 45177. 937-382-1641.
- 12. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced price meals.
- 13. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you <u>normally</u> 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 do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
- 14. WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT? Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application, or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will <u>also</u> be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you <u>meant</u> to do so.
- 15. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY? Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.
- 16. WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY? List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper, and attach it to your application.
- 17. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for Ohio SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 877-852-0010.

If you have other questions or need assistance, please call the food service office at 937-283-7250.

Sincerely,

Jodie Havert, Director of Food Service Wilmington High School 300 Richardson Place Wilmington, OH 45177 937-283-7250 Jodie.havert@wilmington.k12.oh.us

# **HOW TO APPLY FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS**

Please use these instructions to help you fill out the application for free or reduced price school meals. You only need to submit one application per household, even if your children attend more than one school in Wilmington City Schools. The application must be filled out completely to certify your children for free or reduced price school meals. Please follow these instructions in order! Each step of the instructions is the same as the steps on your application. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please contact: Jodie Havert, Director of Food Service, at 937-283-7250 or jodie.havert@wilmington.k12.oh.us.

PLEASE USE A PEN (NOT A PENCIL) WHEN FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION AND DO YOUR BEST TO PRINT CLEARLY.

# STEP 1: LIST ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS WHO ARE INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND STUDENTS UP TO AND INCLUDING GRADE 12

Tell us how many infants, children, and school students live in your household. They do NOT have to be related to you to be a part of your household.

Who should I list here? When filling out this section, please include ALL members in your household who are:

- Children age 18 or under AND are supported with the household's income;
- In your care under a foster arrangement, or qualify as homeless, migrant, or runaway youth;
- Students attending Wilmington City Schools, regardless of age.

A) List each child's name. Print each child's name. Use one line of the application for each child. When printing names, write one letter in each box. Stop if you run out of space. If there are more children present than lines on the application, attach a second piece of paper with all required information for the additional children.

B) Is the child a student at Wilmington City Schools? Mark 'Yes' or 'No' under the column titled "Student" to tell us which children attend WCS. If you marked 'Yes,' write the grade level of the student in the 'Grade' column to the right.

C) Do you have any foster children? If any children listed are foster children, mark the "Foster Child" box next to the child's name. If you are ONLY applying for foster children, after finishing STEP 1, go to STEP 4.

Foster children who live with you may count as members of your household and should be listed on your application. If you are applying for both foster and non-foster children, go to step 3.

D) Are any children homeless, migrant, or runaway? If you believe any child listed in this section meets this description, mark the "Homeless, Migrant, Runaway" box next to the child's name and complete all steps of the application.

# STEP 2: DO ANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN SNAP, TANF, OR FDPIR?

If anyone in your household (including you) currently participates in one or more of the assistance programs listed below, your children are eligible for free school meals:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Ohio Works First (OWF).
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).
- The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).

# A) If no one in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:

Leave STEP 2 blank and go to STEP 3.

#### B) If anyone in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:

• Write the <u>7 - digit case number</u> for SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR in the blank provided. You only need to provide one case number. If you participate in one of these programs and do not know your case number, contact: Clinton County Job & Family Services at 937-382-0963. Go to **STEP 4.** 

## STEP 3: REPORT INCOME FOR ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

## How do I report my income?

- Use the charts titled "Sources of Income for Adults" and "Sources of Income for Children," printed on the back side of the application form to determine if your household has income to report.
- Report all amounts in GROSS INCOME ONLY. Report all income in whole dollars. Do not include cents.
  - Gross income is the total income received before taxes.
  - o Many people think of income as the amount they "take home" and not the total, "gross" amount. Make sure that the income you report on this application has NOT been

#### STEP 3: REPORT INCOME FOR ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

reduced to pay for taxes, insurance premiums, or any other amounts taken from your pay.

- Write a "0" in any fields where there is no income to report. Any income fields left empty or blank will also be counted as a zero. If you write '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. If local officials suspect that your household income was reported incorrectly, your application will be investigated.
- Mark how often each type of income is received using the check boxes to the right of each field.

#### 3.A. REPORT INCOME EARNED BY CHILDREN

A) Report all income earned or received by children. Report the combined gross income for ALL children listed in STEP 1 in your household in the box marked "Child Income." Only count foster children's income if you are applying for them together with the rest of your household.

What is Child Income? Child income is money received from outside your household that is paid DIRECTLY to your children. Many households do not have any child income.

#### 3.B REPORT INCOME EARNED BY ADULTS

#### Who should I list here?

- When filling out this section, please include ALL adult members in your household who are living with you and share income and expenses, even if they are not related and even if they do not receive income of their own.
- Do NOT include:

E) Report income from

- People who live with you but are not supported by your household's income AND do not contribute income to your household.
- Infants, Children and students already listed in STEP 1.

B) List adult household members'			
names. Print the name of each			
household member in the boxes marked			
"Names of Adult Household Members			
(First and Last)." Do not list any			
household members you listed in STEP 1.			
If a child listed in <b>STEP 1</b> has income,			
follow the instructions in <b>STEP 3, part A.</b>			

pensions/retirement/all other income.

Report all income that applies in the

"Pensions/Retirement/ All Other

Income" field on the application.

C) Report earnings from work. Report all income from work in the "Earnings from Work" field on the application. This is usually the money received from working at jobs. If you are a self-employed business or farm owner, you will report your net income.

What if I am self-employed? Report income from that work as a net amount. This is calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of your business from its gross receipts or revenue.

F) Report total household size. Enter the total number of household members in the field "Total Household Members (Children and Adults)." This number MUST be equal to the number of household members listed in STEP 1 and STEP 3. If there are any members of your household that you have not listed on the application, go back and add them. It is very important to list all household members, as the size of your household affects your eligibility for free and

D) Report income from public assistance/child

support/alimony. Report all income that applies in the "Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony" field on the application. Do not report the cash value of any public assistance benefits NOT listed on the chart. If income is received from child support or alimony, only report court-ordered payments. Informal but regular payments should be reported as "other" income in the next part.

G) Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number. \*REQUIRED\* An adult household member must enter the last four digits of their Social Security Number in the space provided. You are eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social Security Number. If no adult household members have a Social Security Number, leave this space blank and mark the box to the right labeled "Check if no SSN." reduced price meals.

## **STEP 4: CONTACT INFORMATION AND ADULT SIGNATURE**

All applications must be signed by an adult member of the household. By signing the application, that household member is promising that all information has been truthfully and completely reported. Before completing this section, please also make sure you have read the privacy and civil rights statements on the back of the application.

- A) Provide your contact information. Write your current address in the fields provided if this information is available. If you have no permanent address, this does not make your children ineligible for free or reduced price school meals. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.
- B) Print and sign your name and write today's date. Print the name of the adult signing the application and that person signs in the box "Signature of adult."
- C) Mail Completed Form to: Wilmington High School Attn: Jodie Havert 300 Richardson Place Wilmington, OH 45177
- D) Share children's racial and ethnic identities (optional). On the back of the application, we ask you to share information about your children's race and ethnicity. This field is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price school meals.

# 2023-2024 Prototype Household Application for Free and Reduced

Price School Meals Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil).

STEP 1 List ALL F	lousehold Members who are infants, ch	ildren, and student	s up to and including grade 12 (if	more spaces are required for additional r	ames, attach another sheet of paper)
Definition of <b>Household</b>	Child's First Name	МІ	Child's Last Name		Grade Student? Homeles Yes No Child Runawe
Member: "Anyone who is living with you and shares					
income and expenses, even if not related."					
Children in Foster care and					Check all that apply
children who meet the definition of <b>Homeless</b> ,					
Migrant or Runaway are eligible for free meals. Read How to Apply for Free and					
Reduced Price School  Meals for more information.					
STEP 2 Do any He	ousehold Members (including you) curre	ently participate in	one or more of the following assis	stance programs: SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR	?
If NO >	Go to STEP 3. If YES > Write a cas	e number here then g	o to STEP 4 (Do not complete STEP :	7 - Digit Case Number:	
CTED 2 Paparting	oma for All Household Nambors (Chinth	sia atan ifuau anawa	rod/Voo/toSTED2)		
STEP 3 Report Inc	ome for ALL Household Members (Skip th	nis step ir you answe	red. tes. (021Eb5)		
	A. Child Income				How often?  Bi-Weekly 2x Month Monthly
	Sometimes children in the household earn or Household Members listed in STEP 1 here.	receive income. Pleas	e include the TOTAL income received by	\$	0 0 0
	B. All Adult Household Members (inc	luding yourself)		, , , , , ,	
Are you unsure what income to include here?					e income, report total gross income (before taxes) ifying (promising) that there is no income to report.
Flip the page and review	,		How often?	ublic Assistance/ How often?	Pensions/Retirement/ How often?
the charts titled "Sources of Income" for more	Name of Adult Household Members (First and Last)	Earnings from Work		hild Support/Alimony Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Month Monthly	All Other Income Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Month Month
information.  The "Sources of Income		\$	\$		\$ 0000
for Children" chart will help you with the Child		\$	0 0 0 0 \$		\$ 0000
Income section.		\$	0 0 0 0 \$	0 0 0 0	\$ 0000
The "Sources of Income for Adults" chart will help		\$	0000\$	0000	\$ 0000
you with the All Adult Household Members section.		\$	0 0 0 s		\$ 0000
Scotton.					•
	Total Household Members (Children and Adults)		Four Digits of Social Security Number rner or Other Adult Household Member	x x x X X	Check if no SSN
STEP 4 Contact in	formation and adult signature. Mail co	ompleted form to: .	Jodie Havert, 300 Richardson Pla	ce, Wilmington, OH 45177	
, ,	on on this application is true and that all income is report ose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under app		o a constant of the constant o	eipt of Federal funds, and that school officials may verify	(check) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give
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Street Address	Apt #	City	State	Zip Daytime Phone	
	Αρι π	J,	Sidio		

Today's date

Signature of adult

Printed name of adult signing the form

Sources of Child Income	Example(s)
- Earnings from work	- A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages
<ul> <li>Social Security</li> <li>Disability Payments</li> <li>Survivor's Benefits</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>- A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits</li> <li>- A Parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits</li> </ul>
Income from person outside the household	- A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money
-Income from any other source	- A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust

Sources of Income for Adults				
Earnings from Work	Public Assistance / Alimony / Child Support	Pensions / Retirement / All Other Income		
- Salary, wages, cash bonuses - Net income from self- employment (farm or business)	Unemployment benefits     Worker's compensation     Supplemental Security Income (SSI)     Cash assistance from State or local	<ul> <li>Social Security         <ul> <li>(including railroad</li> <li>retirement and black lung</li> <li>benefits)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Private pensions or disability benefits</li> </ul>		
If you are in the U.S. Military:  - Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances)  - Allowances for off-base housing, food and dothing	government - Alimony payments - Child support payments - Veteran's benefits - Strike benefits	<ul> <li>Regular income from trusts or estates</li> <li>Annuities</li> <li>Investment income</li> <li>Earned interest</li> <li>Rental income</li> <li>Regular cash payments from outside household</li> </ul>		

#### We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals. Hispanic or Latino Not Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity (check one): Race American Indian or Alaskan Native Asian Black or African American Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander White (check one or more): audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. include the last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/ Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf, from any USDA office, by (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights programs. We MAY share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by: evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials U.S. Department of Agriculture to help them look into violations of program rules. mail: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and 1400 Independence Avenue, SW policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including Washington, D.C. 20250-9410: or gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who program.intake@usda.gov require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g, Braille, large print, This institution is an equal opportunity provider. Do not fill out For School Use Only

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 Weeks x 26, Twice a Month x 24 Monthly x 12 How often? Eligibility: **Total Income** Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Month Monthly **Household Size** Reduced Denied **Categorical Eligibility** Date Date Date **Determining Official's Signature Confirming Official's Signature** Verifying Official's Signature