

Meal Benefit Application Toolkit for Schools

Since school meals became complementary in Maine in the 2019/2020 school year, there has been a significant drop in Meal Benefit Application returns—meaning less families are filling out the application.

The family income data provided by the application informs key **funding** for school resources. This includes school meal reimbursements, funding for Title I programs, funding and resources for after school programs, funding provided to schools from the Maine State Legislature for essential programs and services at school, funding for special education, teacher loan forgiveness, and much, *much* more!

The resources below can be used by districts and schools to help inform parents, caregivers, and staff members about the importance of the Meal Benefit Application in hopes of getting as many families and caregivers to fill out and return the application as possible.



Social Media Graphics

Social media graphics that can be used to inform school communities about the benefits of filling out the meal benefit application:



Download Orange Social Media Graphic: [JPG](#) ([/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/filling%20out%20the%20app_orange_Social_0.jpg](#)) | [PNG](#) ([/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/filling%20out%20the%20app_orange_Soci](#)



Informational Materials

One page Informational that can be distributed to families/caregivers:

- [English](#) ([/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/Meal%20Benefit%20Application%20Informational%20One%20Page.pdf](#))
- [Somali](#) ([/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/Meal%20Benefit%20Application%20Informational%20One%20Page_4_Somali_Final_0.pdf](#))



Form Options

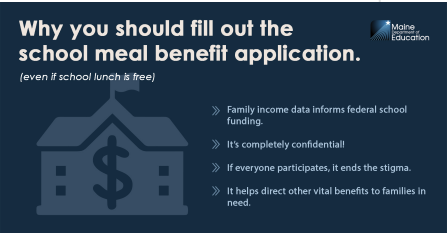
Printable Application

[Application for Free and Reduced Price Meals](#) ([https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/Application%20for%20Free%20and%20Reduced%20Price%20School%20Meals%20SY%202022.docx](#))_ SY 2022

Online Application

Get Your School Administrative Unit (SAU) listed on the Web-Based Meal Benefit Application! There is no cost to Maine public school districts that participate. [Check the](#)

al_0.png).| PDF (/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/filling%20out%20the%20app_orange_Social_0.pdf).



Download Blue Social Media Graphic: JPG (/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/filling%20out%20the%20app_Blue_Social_0.jpg).| PNG (/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/filling%20out%20the%20app_Blue_Social_0.png).| PDF (/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/filling%20out%20the%20app_Blue_Social_0.pdf)

- Arabic (/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/Meal%20Benefit%20Application%20Informational%20One%20Pager-4_Arabic_Final_0.pdf).
- Portuguese (Angolan) (/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/Meal%20Benefit%20Application%20Informational%20One%20Pager-4_Portuguese_Final_0.pdf).
- Spanish (/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/Meal%20Benefit%20Application%20Informational%20One%20Pager-4_Spanish_Final_0.pdf).
- French (/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/Meal%20Benefit%20Application%20Informational%20One%20Pager-4_French_Final_0.pdf).
- Chinese (Mandarin) (/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/Meal%20Benefit%20Application%20Informational%20One%20Pager-4_Chinese_Final_0.pdf).
- Vietnamese (/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/Meal%20Benefit%20Application%20Informational%20One%20Pager-4_Vietnamese_Final_0.pdf).

online form to see if your SAU is listed (https://www.nlappscloud.com/). If you are interested in learning more, please email Sarah Platt at sarah.d.platt@maine.gov (mailto:sarah.d.platt@maine.gov).

Alternative SAMPLE Form

If after understanding all of the benefits of the Meal Benefit Application, parents/caregivers still do not want to fill it out, the Maine DOE has a less invasive SAMPLE form* that can be used by schools to help inform the State of Maine and the Federal Government of the community's financial needs.

[FY22 Alternate Economic Status Form \(https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/FY22%20EconomicStatusForm_081721.docx\)](https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/FY22%20EconomicStatusForm_081721.docx) (updated 8/17/2021)

**this form will not qualify families for P-EBT benefits.*

- [Kinyarwanda](#)
([/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/Meal%20Benefit%20Application%20Informational%20One%20Page-4_Kinyarwanda_Final_0.pdf](#))

- [Central Khmer](#)
([/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/Meal%20Benefit%20Application%20Informational%20One%20Page-4_Khmer_Final_0.pdf](#))

- [Swahili](#)
([/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/Meal%20Benefit%20Application%20Informational%20One%20Page-4_Swahili_Final_0.pdf](#))

[One Page Informational Resource for Staff Members](#)
([/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/Meal%20Benefit%20Application%20One%20page%20informational%20for%20school%20staff.pdf](#))
(PDF)

[Meal Benefit Application Promotion Letter to Families](#)
([https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/Meal%20Benefit%20Application%20Promotion%20Letter%20to%20Families.pdf](#))
(PDF)

[MEDIA RELEASE: Call to](#)

[Action for Maine Parents: Complete the Meal Benefit Application at School This Year – Even if School Meals are Free](https://mainedoe.news.net/2021/07/14/media-release-call-to-action-for-maine-parents-complete-the-meal-benefit-at-school-this-year-even-if-school-meals-are-free/)
(<https://mainedoe.news.net/2021/07/14/media-release-call-to-action-for-maine-parents-complete-the-meal-benefit-at-school-this-year-even-if-school-meals-are-free/>)

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[DOE Staff Contacts](#)

Helpful Links

- [COVID-19 Information](#)
- [SharePoint Intranet](#)
- [A-Z Site Index](#)
- [Careers](#)
- [Certification Office](#)
- [Legislation & Rulemaking](#)
- [Maine Schools](#)
- [Professional Development Calendar](#)
- [Reporting Calendar](#)
- [Suicide Prevention](#)

Related Sites

- [State Board of Education](#)
- [Maine Education Statutes](#)
- [Maine DOE Rule Chapters](#)
- [University of Maine System](#)
- [Maine Community Colleges](#)
- [Maine Maritime Academy](#)
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