

## 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 New England Public School. 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 Tamara Volk; 701-579-4160 [tamara.volk@k12.nd.us](mailto:tamara.volk@k12.nd.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 New England Public School, 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 New England Public School? Mark 'Yes' or 'No' under the column titled "Student" to tell us which children attend New England Public School. 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.
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### **STEP 2: DO ANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN SNAP, TANF, OR FDIPIR?**

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).
- 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 a case number for SNAP, TANF, or FDIPIR. You only need to provide one case number. If you participate in one of these programs and do not know your case number, contact: SNAP 1-800-755-2716 Hettinger County Social Services 701-824-32769.
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### **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.
  - 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 reduced to pay for taxes, insurance premiums, or any other amounts taken from your pay.



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

- 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:**
  - People who live with you but are not supported by your household's income AND do not contribute income to your household. Children and students already listed above.

<b>B) List adult household members'</b> 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 STEP 1 has income, follow the instructions in STEP 3, part A.	<b>C) Report earnings from work.</b> 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.  <b>What if I am self-employed?</b> 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.	<b>D) Report income from public assistance/child support/alimony.</b> 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.
<b>E) Report income from pensions/retirement/all other income.</b> Report all income that applies in the "Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income" field on the application.	<b>F) Report total household size.</b> 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 reduced price meals.	<b>G) Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number.</b> 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."

### 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.*

<b>A) Provide your contact information.</b> 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>B) Print and sign your name and write today's date.</b> Print the name of the adult signing the application and that person signs in the box "Signature of adult."	<b>C) Mail Completed Form to:</b> New England Public School PO Box 307 New England ND 58647	<b>D) Share children's racial and ethnic identities (optional).</b> 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.
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**2023-24 Application for Free or Reduced-Price Meals**

Apply online: (Insert web address. Delete if online application is unavailable)

Complete one application per household for all children. Please use a pen (not a pencil). Mail or return completed form to: **New England Public School PO Box 307 New England, ND 58647**

**STEP 1:**

List ALL Household Members who are infants, children, and students up to and including grade 12 (if more spaces are required for additional names, attach another sheet of paper).

**Definition:** A Household Member is "Anyone living with you and shares income and expenses, even if not related." Children in Foster care are eligible for free meals. Read *How to Complete the Application for Educational Benefits* for more information. Adults over grade 12 living in the same household should be reported in Step 3. If your children attend different districts or charter/nonpublic schools, return an application to each one.

Child's First Name (list all children in household)	Child's Last Name	School	Grade	Mark all that apply.			
M I				Foster Child	Migrant	Homeless or Runaway	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Does your child have health insurance? Many children who qualify for free or reduced-price meals may also be eligible for low-cost or free health coverage. For more information, visit <https://applyforhelp.nd.gov> or call 1-844-854-4825.

**STEP 2:** Do Any Household Members (including you) currently participate in one or more of the following assistance programs: SNAP, TANF, or FDIPIR? Medical assistance does not qualify. If NO > Go to STEP 3.

If YES > Enter SNAP, TANF, or FDIPIR Case Number (between 4-9 digits, do not report EBT card number) \_\_\_\_\_ then go to STEP 4 (Do not complete STEP 3.)

**STEP 3:** Report Income for ALL Household Members (Skip this step if you answered 'Yes' to STEP 2)

A. Child Income.

Sometimes children in the household earn or receive income, such as from a part-time job or SSL. Please include the TOTAL income received by all children listed in STEP 1. Do not include income received by adults in the box to the right.

B. All Adult Household Members (including yourself). For each Household Member listed, report total gross income only if they receive income. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0' or leave any fields blank. You are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. Not sure what income to include here? Flip the page and review "Sources of Income" for information. "Sources of Income" will help you with the Child Income section and All Adult Household Members section.

Names of All Adult Household Members (First and Last)	Gross Earnings from Working at Jobs				Are you Self-Employed or a Farmer?		Any Other Gross Income				
	Weekly	Bi-weekly	2x Month	Monthly	Report income before deductions or taxes in whole dollars (no cents).	Net income from Farm or Self-Employment. Do not duplicate elsewhere.	Weekly	Bi-weekly	2x Month	Monthly	SSL, Unemployment, Public Assistance, Child Support, and others on Page 2
List all Household members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. Include children who are temporarily away at school or in college.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$

**STEP 4:** An Adult household member must sign the application. If Part 3 is completed, the adult signing the form must also list the last four digits of his or her social security number or mark the '1' do not have a Social Security Number box.

Social Security Number box.

A. Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of Adult Household Member: XXX-XX- Or ☐ I do not have a Social Security Number

B. Attestation & Signature: "I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true, and that all income is reported."

I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal Funds and that school officials may verify (check) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws."

**X** SIGNATURE of Adult Completing Application (Form must be signed to be complete.) DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHOOL OFFICE USE ONLY**

☐ Case # Application ☐ Foster Application ☐ Directly Certified: Date of Disregard: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Income Application ☐ Homeless/Migrant/Runaway

Household Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Per: ☐ Week ☐ Bi-Weekly (Every 2 Wks) ☐ 2x Month ☐ Monthly ☐ Annual

Eligibility: Federal Free (130%) \_\_\_\_\_ Reduced (185%) \_\_\_\_\_ State Free (200%) \_\_\_\_\_ Denied \_\_\_\_\_ Reason for Denial: \_\_\_\_\_  
Determining Official's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Incomplete App

☐ Selected For Verification: Confirming Official's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Verifying Official's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if available) \_\_\_\_\_ Apt# \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



## INSTRUCTIONS: Sources of Income

### Sources of Income for Children

Sources of Child Income	Examples
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Earnings from work</li><li>Social Security<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Disability Payments</li><li>b. Survivor's Benefits</li></ul></li><li>Income from person outside the household</li><li>Income from any other source</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages</li><li>A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security</li><li>A Parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits</li><li>A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money</li><li>A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust</li></ul>

### Sources of Income for Adults

Earnings from Work	Public Assistance / Alimony / Child Support	All Other Income
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Salary, wages, cash bonuses (before deductions or taxes)</li><li>Net income from self-employment (farm or business)</li><li>If you are in the U.S. Military:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances)</li><li>b. Allowances for off-base housing, food and clothing</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cash Assistance from State or local government</li><li>Supplemental Security Income</li><li>Unemployment Benefits</li><li>Worker's compensation</li><li>Alimony payments</li><li>Child support payments</li><li>Veteran's benefits</li><li>Strike benefits</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Social Security</li><li>Disability benefits</li><li>Regular income from trusts or estates</li><li>Annuities</li><li>Investment income</li><li>Rental income</li><li>Regular cash payments from outside household</li></ul>

### OPTIONAL: Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities

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. Respond to both Step One, *Ethnicity* and Step Two, *Race*.

Step One: Ethnicity (check one): ☐ Hispanic or Latino ☐ Not Hispanic or Latino

Step Two: Race (check one or more): ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native ☐ Asian ☐ Black or African American ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander ☐ White

The **Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act** requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must 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 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced-price meals and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We MAY share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

Foster, migrant, homeless, and runaway children and children enrolled in a Head Start program are categorically eligible for free meals and free milk. If you are completing an application for these children, contact the school for more information.

**Nondiscrimination Statement:** In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, *USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form*, which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

Mail: \* U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

\*Only use this address if you are filing a complaint of discrimination.

(1) Fax: (833) 256-1665 or 202-690-7442; or

(2) Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

**Income Determination:** Multiple income frequencies must be converted to annual amounts and combined to determine household income. Do not convert if only one income frequency is provided by the household. If converting income to annual, round only the final number.  
Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52      Every 2 Weeks x 26      Twice a Month x 24      Monthly x 12

Return completed form to your child's school.



# Department of Public Instruction Child Nutrition and Food Distribution Programs

## Income Eligibility Guidelines

### July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Federal Free Meals – 130 Percent						Federal Reduced-Price Meal – 185 Percent						State Free 200 - Percent					
Household Size	Yearly	Monthly	2x Month	Every 2 Weeks	Weekly	Household Size	Yearly	Monthly	2x Month	Every 2 Weeks	Weekly	Household Size	Yearly	Monthly	2x Month	Every 2 Weeks	Weekly
1	\$18,954	\$1,580	\$790	\$729	\$365	1	\$26,973	\$2,248	\$1,124	\$1,038	\$519	1	\$29,160	\$2,430	\$1,215	\$1,122	\$561
2	\$25,636	\$2,137	\$1,069	\$986	\$493	2	\$36,482	\$3,041	\$1,521	\$1,404	\$702	2	\$39,440	\$3,287	\$1,643	\$1,517	\$758
3	\$32,318	\$2,694	\$1,347	\$1,243	\$622	3	\$45,991	\$3,833	\$1,917	\$1,769	\$885	3	\$49,720	\$4,143	\$2,072	\$1,912	\$956
4	\$39,000	\$3,250	\$1,625	\$1,500	\$750	4	\$55,500	\$4,625	\$2,313	\$2,135	\$1,068	4	\$60,000	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$2,308	\$1,154
5	\$45,682	\$3,807	\$1,904	\$1,757	\$879	5	\$65,009	\$5,418	\$2,709	\$2,501	\$1,251	5	\$70,280	\$5,857	\$2,928	\$2,703	\$1,352
6	\$52,364	\$4,364	\$2,182	\$2,014	\$1,007	6	\$74,518	\$6,210	\$3,105	\$2,867	\$1,434	6	\$80,560	\$6,713	\$3,357	\$3,098	\$1,549
7	\$59,046	\$4,921	\$2,461	\$2,271	\$1,136	7	\$84,027	\$7,003	\$3,502	\$3,232	\$1,616	7	\$90,840	\$7,570	\$3,785	\$3,494	\$1,747
8	\$65,728	\$5,478	\$2,739	\$2,528	\$1,264	8	\$93,536	\$7,795	\$3,898	\$3,598	\$1,799	8	\$101,120	\$8,427	\$4,213	\$3,889	\$1,945
For each additional family member, add	\$6,682	\$557	\$279	\$257	\$129	For each additional family member, add	\$9,509	\$793	\$397	\$366	\$183	For each additional family member, add	\$10,280	\$857	\$428	\$395	\$198

**NOTE: Do not allow hardship deductions from the above.**

#### Reminders

\*Error Prone Applications: Any application within \$100 *per month* of the applicable IEGs.

\*Multiply income that is received every 2 weeks (biweekly) by 26 to arrive at annual income.

\*Multiply weekly income by 52 to arrive at annual income.

\*Gross or total income must be used in determining eligibility for wage earners.

\*A net loss from a business or farm may not be used to offset other income. A negative income is denoted as \$0.

Teams/general/ansjp/new year 2024

	Yearly	Monthly	2x Month	Every 2 weeks (Bi-Weekly)	Weekly
Annual Income Conversion: Multiply income by	X 1	X 12	X 24	X 26	X 52
Error Prone: \$ Range Below the free or reduced-price income eligibility limit.	\$0-\$1,200	\$0-\$100	\$0-\$50	\$0-\$50	\$0-\$25