



Columbia Food Service - 517-769-8707 - 11775 Hewitt Rd, Brooklyn, MI 49230

August 4, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We have great news! Meals will be free to ALL students for the 2023-2024 school year! We still need your help. Parents with students in grades K-6th grade or Columbia Options need to fill out the NEW Education Benefits Form. Parents with students in 7th-12th grade OR with students in BOTH schools may continue to use the previous Free and Reduced Meal Form. Please take a moment to complete this form and return it to your student's school.

The Application for Summer EBT and Education Benefits with the Michigan School Meals Program collects information needed to ensure the school receives state and federal funding for education programs. **Without this information, Columbia School District could lose important state funding for educational programs that our students are entitled to.** These supplemental grants and programs have the potential to offer supports and services for our students including, but not limited to:

- Teaching supplies and materials
- Counselors and Social Workers
- School Nurses
- Professional Learning for staff
- Parent and Community engagement supplies and activities
- Technology

Why is Columbia School District requesting financial information? The School Meals and Summer EBT Application determines eligibility of a student or household. The total count of eligible students is used to determine the funding amounts that will be made available to a school. The more forms returned the better.

What do I need to do? Please complete the attached form and return it to the office. Your assistance in helping us maintain our current funding levels is greatly appreciated.

How will this information be protected? This information will be sent to the food service office for data entry and filing. All information will remain confidential.

What else might my student or household be eligible for? Based on the information you gave on your School Meals and Summer EBT Application, your child may qualify for other programs such as:

- Summer EBT
- Programs that provide food support
- Potential household support for cable and internet

Please contact Lindsay Kent at Lindsay.kent@myeagles.org or 517-769-8708 with questions.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Kent