

2023-24 Application for Free and Reduced-price School Meals or Free Milk

Sources of Income			Examples of Income for Children
Earnings from Work	Public Assistance/Alimony/Child Support	Pensions/Retirement/All other sources of Income	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salary, wages, cash bonuses, tips, commissions Net income from self-employment (farm or business) If you are in the U.S. Military: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA, or privatized housing allowances) Allowances for off-base housing, food, and clothing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unemployment benefits Workers' compensation Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Cash assistance from State or local government Alimony payments Child support payments Veterans' benefits Strike benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Security/Disability (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits) Private Pensions or disability benefits Income from trusts or estates Annuities Investment Income Earned Interest Rental income Regular cash payments from outside household 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust

OPTIONAL Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities. This information is kept confidential and may be protected by the Privacy Act of 1974.

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.

Ethnicity (check one): Hispanic or Latino (A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish Culture or origin, regardless of race) Not Hispanic or Latino
 Race (check one or more): American Indian or Alaskan Native Asian Black or African American Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander White

School Use Only - Do Not Write Below This Line

The Determining Official (DO) for the school/district MUST complete this section. (Only convert to annual income if there are different frequencies of income listed in Step 3.)
 Annual Income Conversion: Weekly X 52 ♦ Every 2 weeks X 26 ♦ Twice a Month X 24 ♦ Monthly X 12

Directly Certified (DC) based on the State DC List as eligible for: SNAP TFA OT FM (Free Medicaid) RM (Reduced Medicaid). Date Certified on DC List: _____

SNAP/TFA Household providing proof (must be confirmed by DO) of a handwritten case number Foster Child Confirmed Head Start Confirmed Homeless or Runaway

Income Household: Total household income: _____ per _____ Household Size: _____ ERROR PRONE? YES NO

Application approved for: Free Meals Reduced-price Meals Application Denied

Date Notice Sent: _____ Signature of DO: _____ Date: _____

Use of Information Statement

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires that we use information from this application to see who qualifies for free or reduced price meals. We can only approve complete forms. We may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them deliver program benefits to your household. Inspectors and law enforcement may also use your information to make sure that program rules are met.

Please be sure to provide the last four numbers of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application. If the adult does not have one, "Check if no Social Security Number". Applications for a foster child do not need to list a Social Security number. Applications for children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) do not need to list a Social Security number.

Some children qualify for free meals without an application. Please contact your school to get free meals for a foster child, and children who are homeless, migrant, or runaway.

The contact information below is solely to file a complaint of discrimination

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, audiotape, 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/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-S09-11-28-17Fax2Mail.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

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

EMAIL: Program.Intake@usda.gov

* Do not mail applications to this address, only complaints of discrimination.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Return completed form to your child's school.

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 Branford Public Schools*. The application must be filled out completely to determine the eligibility of 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 the application. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please contact the Determining Official at 203-315-7806

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

Step 1: List ALL children, infants, and students up to and including grade 12			
Tell us how many infants/toddlers, children not in school, 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:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children age 18 or under AND are supported with the household's income; • In your care under a foster arrangement, through a court or state/local agency, or qualify as homeless or runaway youth; • Students attending (regardless of age) Branford Public School. 			
<p>A) List each child's name. Print each child's name. Use one line of the application for each child. When printing names, please print clearly. Stop if you run out of space. If there are more children present than lines on the application, attach a second piece of paper (or a second application if completing electronically) with all required information for the additional children. This also applies to adults in Step 3. 'MI' is short for 'middle initial'. Print the first letter of each child's middle name in the 'MI' section.</p>	<p>B) Is the child a student? List the name of the school (optional), the grade and mark "Yes" or "No" under the column titled "Student" to tell us which children attend school in the district. If you marked "Yes," write the grade level of the student in the "Grade" column.</p>	<p>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. <i>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. Note: Adopted children are not considered foster children. A foster child is a state-licensed adult, who cares for the child in place of their parent or guardian.</i></p>	<p>D) Are any children homeless, runaway or in a Head Start Program? If you believe any child listed in this section meets this description, mark the "Head Start or Homeless/Runaway" box next to the child's name and complete all steps of the application. Homeless, Runaway and Head Start status must be confirmed with the appropriate program staff. If the status cannot be confirmed, then the school district will contact you to complete an income-based application. You may choose to provide income information now in order to prevent the school district from potentially needing to contact you later.</p>
Step 2: Do any household members currently participate in SNAP or TFA?			
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:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) • Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) 			
<p>A) If no one in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave STEP 2 blank and go to STEP 3. 	<p>B) If anyone in your household participates in SNAP or TFA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a case number for SNAP or TFA. You only need to provide one case number. If you participate in one of these programs and do not know your case number, contact your DSS social worker. <p>Note: Do not use a HUSKY Medical Benefits number since this number is not a SNAP or TFA case number. It is also recommended (but not required) that you submit proof of this SNAP or TFA case number when you submit the application for processing. Proof does NOT include a copy of the CONNECT card.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to STEP 4. 		
Step 3: Report income for all household members			
How do I report my income?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the charts titled "Sources of Income" and "Examples 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 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 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. 			

How to Apply for Free and Reduced-price School Meals

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.
 - 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 STEP 1 has income, follow the instructions in STEP 3, part A.

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. Net income is your income after taxes and deductions have been subtracted.

- *What if I have multiple jobs? List each job separately by entering your name and income from each job on a new line. Add an additional sheet of paper if necessary.*
- *What if I am self-employed? List income from your business as a net amount. This net amount is calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of your business from its gross receipts (revenue). Gross receipts or revenue are all the income earned from the sale of any products or services offered.*

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.

E) Report income from pensions/retirement/all other income. Report all income that applies in the "Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income" field on the application.

- *What if I receive income from multiple sources in this category? List each source separately by entering your name and income from each source on a new line. Add an additional sheet of paper if necessary.*

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 reduced-price meals.

G) Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number. 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 Social Security Number."

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 mailing address in the fields provided if this information is available. If you have no permanent address, that is okay. 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."

Please return the application directly to your child's SCHOOL. DO NOT mail, fax, or email completed applications or questions about applications to the USDA Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights or your child's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals will be delayed.

C) Mail completed form to:
Branford BOE
185 Damascus
Road
Branford, CT
06405

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.

August 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are thrilled to be back serving your child for the 2023-2024 school year! To kick off the new year, we wanted to share a few important programs that will be coming this fall.

What can my student select? Each day we offer multiple hot and cold options. The lunch meal includes whole grains, variety of proteins (including vegetarian), fresh fruits, vegetables, and skim or low-fat milk.

What is the cost of a meal? The state of CT has allotted funding this year to provide breakfasts at no costs to all students. Lunch is provided at no cost for students eligible for reduced priced as well as free meal qualification. For others, lunch is \$3.30 at the Elementary schools, \$3.60 at Walsh Intermediate and \$3.90 at Branford High School.

Healthy Snacks & Beverage Options!

Chartwells is dedicated to providing high quality, nutritious meals that students will enjoy and choose to eat. The Branford Board of Education has elected again this year to participate in Healthy Food Certification. This ensures our meals, snacks, and beverages meet or exceed the standards for healthy eating as set forth by the USDA and the State of Connecticut. .

How do I pay for a meal or these healthy snack options? Each student is set up with a lunch account in the Nutri-Kids system based on your student's ID number. There are several ways to add money to your child's account:

1. **MySchoolBucks:** You may set up an account through a secure online website www.myschoolbucks.com and pre-pay whatever dollar amount you choose. You may also make payment directly from your bank account. You will need your child's name, student ID number and school zip code to set up an account on myschoolbucks.com. You may call your school office to obtain the student ID number. BPS will be covering all administrative costs related to credit card payments to the MySchoolBucks accounts.
2. **Payment by Check:** You may send in a check to the Chartwells Dining Services c/o Branford Schools, 185 East Main Street, Branford, CT 06405. Checks should be made payable to *Branford School Lunch Program*. Please put your child's name in the memo section of the check.
3. **Cash Payments:** Your child may use cash to add funds to his/her account. If using cash to add to an account, please indicate your child's name and student ID number on the face of the envelope.

Menus, Nutrition Facts at Your Fingertips

Through Nutrislice, an innovative app, students, parents and faculty have access to school menus, including nutrition information, allergens and photos. Nutrislice can be downloaded for free from the App store (iOS) or Google Play (Android) and is available on desktop and mobile devices. Menus are also available through the BPS Nutrislice Website at <https://branford.nutrislice.com>.

At the elementary schools students will continue to order their lunch choices with their teacher each morning.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Thank you,
John Turenne
Director of Dining Services
203-315-7842 Branfordcafe@branfordschools.org



BRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR

- School in Session
- Early Release Day

KEY DATES

July 4	Independence Day Observance – District Closed
July 5 – 28	BPS Summer Programs
Aug. 25	Convocation
Aug. 28	Professional Development (PD) Day
Aug. 29	Certified Staff Work Day
Aug 30	First Day of School
Sept. 4	Labor Day – District Closed
Sept. 27	PD – Early Release Day
Oct. 6 & 9	Fall Recess
Oct. 25	PD – Early Release Day
Nov. 2*	<u>WIS ONLY</u> Conferences – Early Release
Nov. 7	Election Day – PD – No Students
Nov. 9+	<u>ELEMENTARY ONLY</u> Conferences – Early Release
Nov. 22	November Recess – No Students
Nov. 23-24	Thanksgiving Recess – District Closed
Dec. 13	PD – Early Release Day
Dec. 25-29	Winter Recess
Jan. 1	Winter Recess (Continued)
Jan. 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day – District Closed
Jan. 31	PD – Early Release Day
Feb. 6+	<u>ELEMENTARY ONLY</u> Conferences – Early Release
Feb. 19	President’s Day – District Closed
Feb. 20	February Recess – No school
Feb. 27*	<u>WIS ONLY</u> Conferences – Early Release
March 20	PD – Early Release Day
March 29	PD – No School for Students
April 8-12	Spring Recess
April 24	PD – Early Release Day
May 22	PD – Early Release Day
May 27	Memorial Day – District Closed
June 7	Potential Last Day of School/Graduation – Early Release

Students: 180 days Teachers: 185 days

Emergency/weather-related closing makeup days will be taken in June. In case of extraordinary circumstances other calendar adjustments may be considered and made (i.e. makeup days taken from Spring Recess).

July 2023				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

August 2023				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

September 2023				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

October 2023				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

November 2023				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2*	3
6	7	8	9+	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

December 2023				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

January 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

February 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6+	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27*	28	29	

March 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

April 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

May 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

June 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About Free and Reduced-price School Meals in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP)

School Year 2023-24 STABLE Funds

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Branford Public Schools offers healthy meals every school day. For school year (SY) 2023-24 breakfast is free of charge for all students in schools that participate in the School Breakfast Program and lunch costs \$3.30 at the Elementary schools, \$3.60 at Walsh Intermediate and \$3.90 at Branford High School. Your children may qualify for either free meals or reduced-price meals. Note that for SY 2023-24 students eligible for reduced-price school meals will receive one lunch per school day free of charge. This packet includes an application for free and reduced-price school meal benefits and detailed instructions on how to complete the form.

Note: Children receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) or Medicaid (HUSKY A) benefits *may* be directly certified and automatically eligible for free meals without applying for benefits. (Some children who receive Medicaid (HUSKY A) benefits may also be directly certified and automatically eligible for *reduced-price* meals.) Questions regarding SNAP/TFA/Medicaid and direct certification should be sent to the determining official, Maria Cacace, 203-315-7806.

If you have received a Notice of Direct Certification for free or reduced-price meals, do not complete the application unless instructed to do so by the district. Let the school know if any children in your household are not listed on the Notice of Direct Certification letter you received, since free or reduced meal benefits are extended to all children in a household when directly certified.

Additionally, all school-aged children in income-eligible households can receive school meal benefits regardless of a child's immigration status and the district/school does not release information for immigration-related purposes in the usual course of operating the Child Nutrition Programs.

The Branford Public Schools complies with the federal requirements for meal modifications for children with special dietary needs. The requirements for meal modifications are different for children with and without disabilities. For more information, please contact the food service director, John Turenne at 203-315-7842.

The answers to the common questions below can help you with the application process.

FAQs About Free and Reduced-price School Meals in the NSLP and SBP

1. Who can get free or reduced-price meals?

- All children in households receiving SNAP or TFA benefits are eligible for free meals. Note: *Some* students receiving Medicaid (HUSKY A) benefits are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals. (Note: A foster child is categorically eligible for free meals and may be included as a member of the foster family if the foster family chooses to also apply for benefits for other children. Including children in foster care as household members may help other children in the household qualify for benefits. If non-foster children in a foster family are not eligible for free or reduced-price meal benefits, an eligible foster child will still receive free benefits.)
- Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless or runaway are eligible for free meals.
- Children may receive free or reduced-price meals if your household's income is within the limits of 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 Reduced Eligibility Income Chart (Effective July 1, 2023, to June 30, 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 family member	+ 9,509	+ 793	+ 183

FAQs About Free and Reduced-price School Meals in the NSLP and SBP

2. **How do I know if my children qualify as homeless 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 you have not been told your children will get free meals, please call **Student Services Director at 203-488-5000**.
3. **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 **Branford Board of Education 185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT 06405**.
4. **Should I fill out an application if I received a letter this school year saying my children are already approved for free or reduced-price meals?** No, but please read the letter carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact **Branford Board of Education at 203-315-7806** immediately.
5. **My child's application was approved last year. Do I need to fill out a new one?** Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for up to 30 operating days into the new school year (or until a new eligibility determination is made, whichever comes first). When the carryover period ends, unless you are notified that your children are directly certified or you submit an application that is approved, your children's meals must be claimed at the paid rate. Though encouraged to do so, the LEA is not required to send a reminder or a notice of expired eligibility.
6. **I have not submitted an application within the past three years. Do I need to fill out a new one?** Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for up to 30 operating days into the new school year (or until a new eligibility determination is made, whichever comes first). When the carryover period ends, unless you are notified that your children are directly certified or you submit an application that is approved, your children's meals must be claimed at the paid rate. Though encouraged to do so, the LEA is not required to send a reminder or a notice of expired eligibility.

FAQs About Free and Reduced-price School Meals in the NSLP and SBP

7. **I get WIC. Can my children get free meals?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please send in an application.
8. **Will the information I give be checked?** Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
9. **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.
10. **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 203-315-7809 or writing Superintendent of Schools, Branford Public School, 185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT 06405.
11. **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.
12. **What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1,000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1,000 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.
13. **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. When this happens, please write "0" in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.
14. **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, or receive Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance payments, these 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.
15. **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 to your application. Contact Maria Cacace, 185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT 06405, 203-315-7806 or email: mcacace@branfordschools.org to receive a second application.

FAQs About Free and Reduced-price School Meals in the NSLP and SBP

16. My family needs more help. Are there other programs we might apply for? To find out how to apply for SNAP benefits and to contact the Department of Social Services office in your town, contact United Way's free referral number 2-1-1 (free call, statewide).

If you have other questions or need help, call 203-315-7806.

Sincerely,
Branford Public Schools

Nondiscrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

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, audiotape, 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:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Addendum C: Information on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) New Increased Income Guidelines Effective October 1, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian:

New increased income guidelines are in effect as of October 1, 2022. If your children qualify for free school meals or milk, you might also qualify for SNAP (formerly called Food Stamps). SNAP helps people buy food for themselves and their families. SNAP benefits are issued each month on plastic debit cards. You can use SNAP benefits to buy food at major supermarkets, neighborhood grocery stores, online at participating retailers, and some farmers' markets authorized to accept SNAP.

How to Qualify

If and how much SNAP you qualify for depends on:

- your household's income;
- allowable deductions to your household's income (examples include monthly shelter expenses, medical bills, and court ordered child support);
- your household size; and
- at least 5 years U.S. residency for qualified non-citizens.

If you have access to the Internet, you can go online to see if you may be eligible for SNAP. Go to www.connect.ct.gov and click "Am I Eligible?"

Owning your own home or owning a car will not prevent you from being eligible for SNAP.

Effective October 1, 2022		
Household size	Gross monthly income	Gross annual income
1	2,265	27,180
2	3,052	36,620
3	3,839	46,060
4	4,625	55,500
5	5,412	64,940
6	6,199	74,380
7	6,985	83,820
8	7,772	93,260
For each additional member	+787	+9,440
Larger households = higher incomes		

To Apply or Get More Information

- To find your local Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) office, call **United Way's free referral number 2-1-1** (free call statewide) or visit www.ct.gov/dss/fieldoffices.
- You can find a list of all **Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS)** offices, or you can apply online at www.connect.ct.gov (click "Apply for Benefits"). You can get the paper SNAP application in English and Spanish at <https://www.ct.gov/snap> (Click "Apply").
- The following two organizations that conduct outreach and can assist with applying for SNAP benefits:
 1. **End Hunger CT!** provides a SNAP outreach call center (866-974-SNAP (7627)) to assist in applying for as well as maintaining eligibility for SNAP benefits. If you are eligible for SNAP, you will stretch your food dollars, support your school and community, and your kids get school meals at no cost. Many families are surprised they qualify – it is quick, easy, and confidential to check by calling one of our trained associates
 2. **The Connecticut Association for Community Action (CAFCA)** works with community action agencies that will help you enroll in SNAP (see table on page 2):

Addendum C: Information on SNAP

Agency	Phone number	Areas served
The Access Community Action Agency (Access)	860-450-7400	Windham and Tolland Counties
Alliance for Community Empowerment (Alliance)	203-366-8241	Greater Bridgeport Area and Upper Fairfield County
Community Action Agency of New Haven, Inc. (CAANH)	203-387-7700	Greater New Haven Area
The Community Action Agency of Western Connecticut, Inc. (CAAWC)	203-744-4700	Northwestern CT and Lower Fairfield County
Community Renewal Team, Inc. (CRT)	860-560-5600	Hartford and Middlesex County
Human Resources Agency of New Britain, Inc. (HRA)	860-225-8601	New Britain and Bristol Areas
New Opportunities, Inc. (NOI)	203-575-9799	Greater Waterbury, Meriden, and Torrington Areas
Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. (TVCCA)	860-889-1365	Southeastern CT- New London County
Training Education and Manpower, Inc. (TEAM)	203-736-5420	Naugatuck Valley

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3. **email:** program.intake@usda.gov

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The Connecticut State Department of Education is committed to a policy of affirmative action/ equal opportunity for all qualified persons. The Connecticut Department of Education does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of age, ancestry, color, civil air patrol status, criminal record (in state employment and licensing), gender identity or expression, genetic information, intellectual disability, learning disability, marital status, mental disability (past or present), national origin, physical disability (including blindness), race, religious creed, retaliation for previously opposed discrimination or coercion, sex (pregnancy or sexual harassment), sexual orientation, veteran status or workplace hazards to reproductive systems, unless there is a bona fide occupational qualification excluding persons in any of the aforementioned protected classes.

Inquiries regarding the Connecticut State Department of Education's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to: Levy Gillespie, Equal Employment Opportunity Director/Americans with Disabilities Coordinator (ADA), Connecticut State Department of Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 505, Hartford, CT 06103, 860-807-2071, levy.gillespie@ct.gov.

This document is available at <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Forms/FreeRed/AddendumC.pdf>.



Does Your Family Need Health Insurance?

Connecticut offers low or no-cost coverage and free enrollment help

Don't have health and dental insurance? Complete one application using some basic information about your household and see what Access Health CT has to offer. Most Connecticut residents qualify for some type of financial help, low or no-cost coverage.

Check your options and enroll now! Get started at AccessHealthCT.com. If you're already on HUSKY Health, don't lose it! Complete your renewal on time to prevent a gap in coverage.

- ✓ HUSKY A or HUSKY B
- ✓ State HUSKY A & B for children—now more can enroll*
- ✓ Covered Connecticut Program
- ✓ Qualified Health Plans and Financial Help
- ✓ Qualified Health Plans
- ✓ Low-cost Dental Insurance
- ✓ Free enrollment help



Don't miss out.

Compare Your Options, Enroll or Get Help Online at AccessHealthCT.com today. All help is free and available in many different languages.

If you recently lost your HUSKY Health coverage, you may still have time to re-enroll without a gap or choose an affordable plan. Visit AccessHealthCT.com today to find out.

Take action now:

- For general information about HUSKY Health visit www.ct.gov/HUSKY
- For all other questions visit AccessHealthCT.com
- Scan the QR code above

*State HUSKY A & B: Now, more children can enroll no matter their immigration status, but you must call Access Health CT to apply for coverage.

1-855-805-4325 | AccessHealthCT.com | Find free help online, by phone or in person

If you are deaf or hearing impaired, you may use the TTY at 1-855-789-2428 or contact us with a relay operator.

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