

Wiscasset Middle High School

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our school offers healthy meals every school day. Students may buy lunch for \$2.85 and breakfast for \$1.50.

Your children may qualify for free or reduced-price meals and may be eligible to get breakfast and lunch at school for *no charge*. To apply, complete the enclosed *SY 2021 Free and Reduced Price School Meal Household Application*. A new application must be submitted each school year.

Meals must meet nutrition standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. If a child has a disability, as determined by a licensed medical authority, and the disability prevents the child from eating the regular school meal, substitutions may be made as prescribed by a licensed medical authority. If a substitution is needed, there will be no extra charge for the meal. Please note, however, that the school is not required to make a substitution, unless it meets the definition of disability. Please call the school nutrition program for further information.

You may return your completed Application to: Lorie Johnson 83 Federal Street Wiscasset Me. 04578

Who can get free or reduced price school meals? Children in households receiving SNAP, TANF or, FDPIR benefits, and foster, homeless, and migrant children are eligible for free meals without reporting household income. Alternatively, children may receive free or reduced-price meals if their household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.

Will information on my application be kept confidential? We will use the information on your form to decide if your child is eligible for free or reduced-price meals. We may inform officials connected with other child nutrition, health and education programs of the information on your form to determine benefits for those programs or for funding and/or evaluation purposes.

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 |Charles Lomonte 207-882-7722 or Email clomonte@wiscassetsschools.org.

Do I need to fill out an application for each child? No. Use one 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.

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.

My child's application was approved last year. Do I need to fill out a new one? Yes. A new application must be submitted each school year unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not send in a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for meals.

Will the form be verified? Your eligibility may be checked at any time during the school year. School officials may ask you to send written evidence.

Can I apply for free and reduced-price meals later? Yes. Please complete an application at any time including if your income decreases, household size increases, or you start getting SNAP, TANF or benefits from FDPIR.

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: Terry Wood 207-882-4104 or Email twood@wiscassetsschools.org

HOW TO COMPLETE THE SY 2021 FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEAL HOUSEHOLD APPLICATION

Step 1: STUDENT INFORMATION: List all students living in the household

- (a) List all students living in the household
- (b) Include the name of the school they attend (if known)
- (c) If the student is a Foster, Homeless or Migrant child, check the applicable box.
- (d) If the student is a Foster child, their foster parent or other official representing the child must sign the form in step 4. You do not have to list a social security number.
- (e) Foster children should be included as a household member. This may help other household members qualify for benefits.

Step 2: BENEFITS

- (a) Check the appropriate box (Y/N) if you or any members of your household receive SNAP, TANF or FDPIR assistance.
- (b) If no, proceed to step 3.
- (c) If yes, provide the case number and name of the person receiving these benefits. Skip step 3. An adult household member must sign the form in Step 4 but does not have to list a social security number.

Step 3: INCOME List all Household Members include yourself & students listed in step 1. List gross income for each person.

- (a) Write the names of each person living in your household. A household is a person(s) living together that shares income and expenses, even if not related.
- (b) Write the amount of gross income each person receives before taxes and other deductions. Each income amount should be entered in the appropriate column.
- (c) Check the box for how often each income is received.
- (d) If self-employed, write the amount of income the person earns from self-employment: for example, income from being a family day care home provider, or operating a farm. Please call the school if you need help.
- (e) Any income field left blank is a positive indication there is no income to report.

Step 4: Required - Adult signature and last four digits of social security number

- (a) The form must have the **signature** of an adult household member.
- (b) The adult household member who signs must include the **last four digits of his/her social security number**. *If he/she does not have a social security number, check the appropriate box.* A social security number is not needed if you listed a SNAP or TANF case number or if you are applying for a foster child.

Step 5: Optional - CHILDREN'S ETHNIC and RACIAL IDENTITIES: You are **not required** to answer this question, but completion of this information will help ensure everyone is treated fairly.

INCOME TO REPORT

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

Step 5: Optional CHILDREN'S ETHNIC and RACIAL IDENTITIES. You are not required to answer this question.

Mark one ethnic identity:

- Hispanic or Latino
 Not Hispanic or Latino

Mark one or more racial identities:

- Asian
 White
 Black or African American
 American Indian or Alaska Native
 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 Other

NOTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

DATE:

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your application for free or reduced price meals for your child(ren) has been:

- Approved for applicable programs listed below (check all that apply)
- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Free Lunches | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced price lunches at \$_____ per meal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Free Breakfasts | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced price breakfast at \$_____ per meal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Free After School Snacks | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced price After School Snacks at \$_____ per snack |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Free Milk for K and Pre-K, if meals are unavailable to them | |

Denied because:

- Household income is over the amount allowable. The application is missing _____.

Other _____.

You may appeal this decision by contacting the Hearing Official, _____ at (phone/email of Hearing Official) _____.

Sincerely,

Approving Officer

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 submit all needed information, 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 primary wage earner or other adult household member who signs the application. 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.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter 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,
(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

The Maine Human Rights Act prohibits discrimination because of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental disability, genetic information, religion, ancestry or national origin.

Complaints of discrimination must be filed at the office of the Maine Human Rights Commission, 51 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0051. If you wish to file a discrimination complaint electronically, visit the Human Rights Commission website at <https://www.maine.gov/mhrc/file/instructions> and complete an intake questionnaire. Maine is an equal opportunity provider and employer.