

Frequently Asked Questions about Free and Reduced-Price Meals

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

- All children in households receiving benefits from CalFresh, CalWORKs, or FDPIR, are eligible for free meals.
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- Children may receive free or reduced price meals if your household's income is within the limits on 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.

Reduced-Price Eligibility Scale (July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021)					
Household Size	Year	Month	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Week
1	\$23,606	\$1,968	\$984	\$908	\$454
2	\$31,894	\$2,658	\$1,329	\$1,227	\$614
3	\$40,182	\$3,349	\$1,675	\$1,546	\$773
4	\$48,470	\$4,040	\$2,020	\$1,865	\$933
5	\$56,758	\$4,730	\$2,365	\$2,183	\$1,092
6	\$65,046	\$5,421	\$2,711	\$2,502	\$1,251
7	\$73,334	\$6,112	\$3,056	\$2,821	\$1,411
8	\$81,622	\$6,802	\$3,401	\$3,140	\$1,570
For each additional family member add:					
	\$8,288	\$691	\$346	\$319	\$160

2. **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 the Student Support Services Department at (626) 312-2900 x230 or the Migrant Education office at (626) 312-2900.
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 the school cafeteria or the Nutrition Services Department at 3907 Rosemead Blvd., Suite 150
4. **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. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact the Nutrition Services Department at (626) 312-2900 x254 or x255 immediately.
5. **Can I Apply Online?** Yes! You are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application if you are able. The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit www.schoolcafe.com to begin. Contact the Nutrition Services Department at (626) 312-2900 x254 or x255 if you have any questions about the online application.
6. **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 the first 30 days of this school year. You must complete a new application unless you received a letter saying that your child was automatically approved (directly certified) for the new school year. Otherwise, if you do not complete a new application that is approved, or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for lunch meals.
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 complete the meal 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?** Please call Nutrition Services with any application questions, at (626) 312-2900 x254.
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 \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 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. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field; if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will 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, it 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 it to your application.
16. **My family needs more help. Are there other programs we might apply for?** Yes. For information on CalFresh and CalWORKs, contact your county welfare department by reviewing the CalFresh Web page at <http://www.calfresh.ca.gov/PG839.htm> or by phone at **877-847-3663**. For additional assistance in your local area, contact the California referral hotline by phone at **211**.

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. If you are submitting an income-based application, you must include the last four digits of the social security number (SSN) of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the SSN are not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child; list a CalFresh, CalWORKs, or FDPIR case number for your child; indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a SSN. We will use your household size and income information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration of the lunch and breakfast programs.