

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Dear YCSD Family,

Children need healthy meals to learn. The York County School Division offers nutritious meals every school day. **Breakfast costs \$1.85 for elementary students and \$1.95 for middle and high school students; lunch costs \$2.95 for elementary students and \$3.05 for middle and high school students. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price meals are free for the 2024-25 school year.** This packet includes an application for free or reduced price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions for completing the application. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the process.

## 1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from **Virginia SNAP, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) or Virginia TANF**, are eligible for free meals.
- Foster children who are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- Children participating in their school's Head Start program 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 the chart below:

### INCOME CHART

Free or Reduced-Price Meals  
Effective July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

| <u>Household Size</u> | <u>Yearly</u> | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Weekly</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1                     | 27,861        | 2,322          | 536           |
| 2                     | 37,814        | 3,152          | 728           |
| 3                     | 47,767        | 3,981          | 919           |
| 4                     | 57,720        | 4,810          | 1,110         |
| 5                     | 67,673        | 5,640          | 1,302         |
| 6                     | 77,626        | 6,469          | 1,493         |
| 7                     | 87,579        | 7,299          | 1,685         |
| 8                     | 97,532        | 8,128          | 1,876         |

*For Each Additional Family Member add:*

| <u>Yearly</u> | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Weekly</u> |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| 9,953         | 830            | 192           |

- 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 you haven't been told they will get free meals, contact Kimberly Snow, Coordinator of Enrollment and Attendance, at **757-833-7001** or [ksnow@ycsd.york.va.us](mailto:ksnow@ycsd.york.va.us) or Leslie Hytonen, Community Outreach Coordinator, at **757-833-7087** or [lhytonen@ycsd.york.va.us](mailto:lhytonen@ycsd.york.va.us)
- 3. 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 incomplete application, so please fill out all required information. Return the completed application to your student's school.
- 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 Kim Rohman, Manager of School Food Services, at **757-898-0485** or [krohman@ycsd.york.va.us](mailto:krohman@ycsd.york.va.us)

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.myschoolapps.com](http://www.myschoolapps.com) to learn more and get started.
6. **MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE?** Yes. Previously approved applications are only usable for the first few weeks of the 2024-25 school year, through **October 9, 2024**. You must send in a new application unless you have been told your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not send in 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 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 send in an application.
8. **WILL THE INFORMATION I PROVIDE 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 DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION?** You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a review hearing by contacting Cheryl Parr, Associate Director of Student Services, at **757-898-0468** or [cparr@ycsd.york.va.us](mailto:cparr@ycsd.york.va.us)
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, list 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 the types of income we ask you to report on the application, or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a zero (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, 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 ALL MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY?** List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper, and attach it to your application. Contact Kim Rohman at **757-898-0485** or [krohman@ycsd.york.va.us](mailto:krohman@ycsd.york.va.us) to receive a second application.
16. **MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR?** To find out how to apply for **Virginia SNAP** or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-800-552-3431.

If you have other questions or need assistance, please contact Kim Rohman at [krohman@ycsd.york.va.us](mailto:krohman@ycsd.york.va.us)

Sincerely,

*Kim Rohman*, Manager of School Food Services