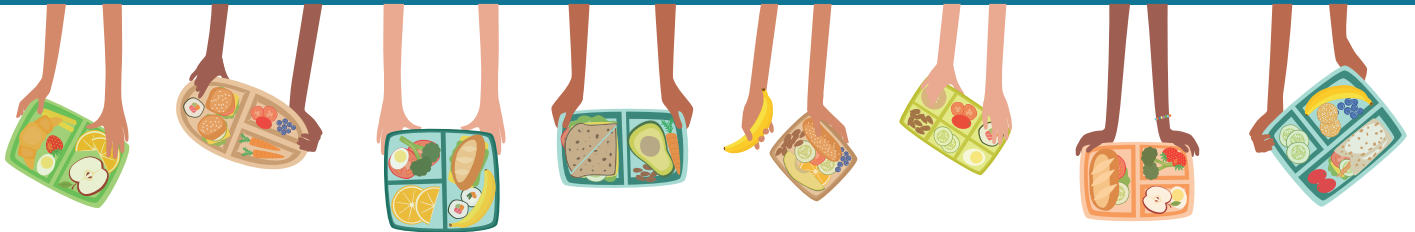


2022/2023 School Year Meal Rates Return for Nutritious School Meals

Schools are transitioning back to requiring family applications for free and reduced-price meals to meet USDA requirements



In the 2022/2023 school year, schools are required to return to charging for school meals on the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) based on program eligibility.

If you are an income-eligible family, complete these steps:

- Contact your school district to access the NSLP application form for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals.
- Return the form to the school office or submit online if available electronically *no later than September 30, 2022*.
- Watch for notification of eligibility in the mail or in an email.
- Familiarize yourself with how your school accepts payment in the cafeteria for meals and a la carte items.
- Ask questions! Contact your district or your School Food Service Director for any questions about the NSLP program, we're here to help!

Things to know about filling out the NSLP Application Form:

- A new application is needed every year.
- Benefits from the previous year expire on September 30th without a new application.
- Income cannot be listed as an hourly rate. Provide your **gross income** only (money earned before taxes and other deductions are subtracted).
- Provide the last four digits of your Social Security number.
- Sign and date the form.
- If you answered **yes** to an assistance program, you **must** provide the case number.

Why Aren't Meals Free to All Students?

During the COVID-19 pandemic, schools were able to offer no cost meals to all students due to temporary program flexibilities provided by the federal government. These flexibilities have expired, and the U.S. Congress did not provide funding in this year's budget to allow schools to serve free meals to all students in the 2022/2023 school year. Your school nutrition team is committed to serving healthy, balanced meals to every student. These meals offer a good source of nutrition for children and fuel them to learn during their school day.

If I don't qualify now, may I apply later?

Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start getting Food Stamps, W-2 Cash Benefits, or other Benefits. If you lose your job, your child(ren) may be able to get free or reduced-price meals during the time you are unemployed.

TAHER
INC.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.