

Free and Reduced Price Meal Information

According to the U.S. Department of Health, studies have shown that eating nutritious meals can improve a child's health and intellectual development. Cobleskill-Richmondville Central School District offers students healthy meals every school day, including breakfast (\$2 ES, \$2.25 MS/HS) and lunch (\$2.25 ES and \$2.75 MS/HS). Free and reduced-price meals are available to students whose families meet federal income guidelines. Reduced-price meals cost each eligible student \$0.25 for breakfast and \$0.25 for lunch.

Q: Do I need to fill out an application for each child?

A: No. Please fill out only one application for your household.

Q: Who can get free meals?

A: All children in households receiving benefits from SNAP, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations or TANF, can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household's gross income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.

Q: Can foster children get free meals?

A: Yes, foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are eligible for free meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for free meals regardless of income.

Q: Can homeless, runaway and migrant children get free meals?

A: Please call William Wolfanger at (518) 234-3165 to see if your child qualifies.

Q: Who can get reduced-price meals?

A: Your children can get low-cost meals if your household income is within the reduced-price limits on the Federal Income Chart (see attached pages).

Q: Should I fill out an application if I received a letter this school year saying my children are approved for free or reduced-price meals?

A: Yes. A new application must be received by

Sept. 30, 2016, or your children will be removed from the approved free or reduced list. This is mandated by New York State and you will be required to send money in with your children for meals starting on Oct. 1. Call 234-3565, ext. 1052 if you have any questions.

Q: I get WIC. Can my child get free meals?

A: Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please fill out an application.

Q: Will the information I give be checked?

A: The school may ask you at any time during the school year to verify your eligibility. You will be notified, in writing, if you have been selected for verification. School officials may ask you to send papers showing that your child should receive free or reduced-price meals at the time you applied.

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

A: Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your household size increases, your income goes down, or you start getting Food Stamps, TANF or other benefits. If you lose your job, your children may be able to get free or reduced-price meals.

Q: What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application?

A: You should talk to school officials. You may also ask for a hearing by writing to Business

Manager Tracy Fraleigh, 155 Washington Ave., Cobleskill, NY 12043; (518) 234-4032 ext. 2008.

Q: May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen?

A: Yes. You or your children do not have to be U.S. citizens to qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

Q: Who should I include as members of my household?

A: You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives or friends). You must include yourself and all children who live with you.

Q: What if my income is not always the same?

A: List the amount you normally get. For example, if you normally get \$1,000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only got \$900, you should list \$1,000. If your normally get overtime, include it. Don't include overtime if you only get it occasionally.

Q: My spouse is deployed to a combat zone. Does combat pay count as income?

A: No, if combat pay is received in addition to basic pay. Contact your school for more information regarding military wages and allowances.

Q: My family needs more help. Are there other programs we might apply for?

A: To find out how to apply for SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-800-342-3009.

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How to Apply

To get free or reduced-price meals for your children you may submit an Eligibility Letter for Free Meals/Milk (formerly Direct Certification Letter) received from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. OR carefully complete one application for your household and return it to the designated office.

If you now receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) for any children, or participate in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), the application must include the children's names, the household SNAP, TANF or FDPIR case number and the signature of an adult household member. All children should be listed on the same application.

If you do not list a food stamp, TANF or FDPIR case number for all the children for whom you are applying, the application must include the names of everyone in the household, the amount of income of each household member, and how often it is received and where it comes from. It must include the signature of an adult household member and the last four digits of that adult's social security number, or check the box if the adult does not have a social security number. An application that is not complete cannot be approved. Contact your local Department of Social Services for your food stamp or TANF case number or complete the income portion of the application.

Reporting Changes

You no longer need to report changes for an increase in income or decrease in household size, or if you no longer receive food stamps.

Income Exclusions

The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care Development (Block Grant) Fund should not be considered as income for this program.

Non-discrimination Statement

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited basis will

apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (PDF), found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities and wish to file either an EEO or program complaint please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Meals for Children with Disabilities

Federal regulations require schools and institutions to serve meals at no extra charge to children with a disability which may restrict their diet. A student with a disability is defined in 7CFR Part 15b.3 of Federal regulations, as one who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities are defined to include functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working. You must request the special meals from the school and provide the school with medical certification from a medical doctor. If you believe your child needs substitutions because of a disability, please call Food Services Director Amy Stuart 234-3565, ext. 1052, for further information, as there is specific information that the medical certification must contain.

Confidentiality

The United States Department of Agriculture has approved the release

REDUCED PRICE ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART

The following chart lists income levels according to household size and income levels received either yearly, monthly or weekly. If your total household income is the same or less than the amounts on the income chart below, your children may be eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals. Income levels are effective from July 1, 2013 until further notice

Household Size	Annual	Month	Twice Monthly	Bi-Weekly	Weekly
1	\$21,978	\$1,832	\$916	\$846	\$423
2	29,637	2,470	1,235	1,140	570
3	37,296	3,108	1,554	1,435	718
4	44,955	3,747	1,874	1,730	865
5	52,614	4,385	2,193	2,024	1,012
6	60,273	5,023	2,512	2,319	1,160
7	67,951	5,663	2,832	2,614	1,307
8	75,647	6,304	3,152	2,910	1,455
For each additional family member add	7696	642	321	296	148

of students names and eligibility status, without parent/guardian consent, to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of federal education programs such as Title I and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which are United States Department of Education programs used to determine areas such as the allocation of funds to schools, to evaluate socioeconomic status of the school's attendance area, and to assess educational progress. Information may also be released to State health or State education programs administered by the State agency or local education agency, provided the State or local education agency administers the program, and federal State or local nutrition programs similar to the National School Lunch Program. Additionally, all information contained in the free and reduced price application may be released to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of programs authorized under the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) or Child Nutrition Act (CNA); including the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, the Special Milk Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC); the Comptroller General of the United States for audit purposes, and federal, State or local law enforcement officials investigating alleged violation of the programs under the NSLA or CNA.

The disclosure of eligibility information not specifically authorized by the NSLA requires a written consent statement from the parent/guardian. We will let you know when your application is approved or denied.