

Letter to Households with Frequently Asked Questions for Federal Free and Reduced-Price School Meals & North Dakota's Expanded Income Eligibility Guidance

This document provides information for families with students attending a school in North Dakota offering Federal Child Nutrition Programs such as the National School Lunch Program and/or the School Breakfast Program, as well as information about North Dakota's Expanded Income Eligibility Guidelines for schools. It is effective July 1, 2026.

Dear Family:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **(School District)** offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.70_____and lunch costs \$2.76_____. Other programs, such as Title I, rely on income eligibility. If your household income is below the numbers in the chart below, please complete the enclosed income application and return it to the school. To be considered for any other income-based programs the district may offer, please fill out the "Release of Information Form" as well.

Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. WHO CAN GET FREE MEALS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or the Temporary Assistance Program for Needy Families (TANF) can get free meals regardless of their income. Also, your children can get free or reduced-price meals if your household income is within the limits on the Federal Income Chart.
- Foster children 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 of 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.

**Federal Income Chart
For School Year 2026-27**

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Each Additional Person:
Yearly	\$29,526	\$40,034	\$50,542	\$61,050	\$71,558	\$82,066	\$92,574	\$103,082	\$10,508
Monthly	\$2,461	\$3,337	\$4,212	\$5,088	\$5,964	\$6,839	\$7,715	\$8,591	\$876
2x per Month	\$1,231	\$1,669	\$2,106	\$2,544	\$2,982	\$3,420	\$3,858	\$4,296	\$438
Every 2 Weeks	\$1,136	\$1,540	\$1,944	\$2,349	\$2,753	\$3,157	\$3,561	\$3,965	\$405
Weekly	\$568	\$770	\$972	\$1,175	\$1,377	\$1,579	\$1,781	\$1,983	\$233

- Children attending schools in North Dakota may receive free meals if your household income is within the limits of the State 225 Expanded Income Guidelines (State 225). Your children may qualify for meals at no cost if your household income falls at or below the limits on the chart below:

**State of North Dakota Income Chart
For School Year 2026-27**

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Each Additional Person:
Yearly	\$35,910	\$48,690	\$61,470	\$74,250	\$87,030	\$99,810	\$112,590	\$125,370	\$12,780
Monthly	\$2,993	\$4,058	\$5,123	\$6,188	\$7,253	\$8,318	\$9,383	\$10,448	\$1,065
2x per Month	\$1,496	\$2,029	\$2,561	\$3,094	\$3,626	\$4,159	\$4,691	\$5,224	\$533
Every 2 Weeks	\$1,381	\$1,873	\$2,364	\$2,856	\$3,347	\$3,839	\$4,330	\$4,822	\$492
Weekly	\$691	\$936	\$1,182	\$1,428	\$1,674	\$1,919	\$2,165	\$2,411	\$246

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 any of these descriptions and haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or email: **(school, homeless liaison or migrant coordinator)**.
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: **(Name, address, phone number and email)** immediately.