Free & Reduced Meals: The Facts You Need to Know

Food and Nutrition Services
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The confidentiality of meal status is highly protected. Overt identification of students receiving meal benefits is not allowed. The only way anyone will know your student's meal status is if you or your child shares the information.

There are three ways to qualify for Free or Reduced Price meals:

1. *Income eligibility and household size (application required)*

   To apply for Free or Reduced price meal benefits
   Submit an online application at: *MySchoolApps.com*
   Only one application per household, listing each student in the household, is needed.
   A new application must be completed for each school year.

2. *Direct Certification of meal benefits to families who receive SNAP , TANF or Medicaid*
3. *Migrant, homeless, or foster student approval with documentation*

If you receive a letter of determination that the students in your household are automatically eligible for meal benefits, then you do not need to complete an application.

A re-evaluation of an application may be possible due to a change in financial circumstances.
Contact FNS

Apply for meal benefits anytime during the school year.

U.S. citizenship is not required for household members to apply for Free or Reduced - priced meal benefits.

Meal benefit eligibility is for one school year; a new application must be submitted each school year.

Possible additional benefits of participating in the Free or Reduced Meal program:

- *SAT & ACT fees may be waived*
- *Some after school programs may offer discounted rates*
- *Some Little League and Pop Warner teams offer discounted rates*
- *Certain school uniform vendors offer discounted rates*

Meal prices
Breakfast (all schools) $2.50
Lunch
Elementary $3.65
Middle & High $4.15
All meal prices will increase by $.25 effective January 2027

Reduced Meal Prices
Breakfast $.30
Lunch $.40

You know what's on the menu, but do you know what your child actually purchased?
Set up an account at MySchoolBucks.com

Free & Reduced Meal Benefits are a federal program which does conduct annual random verification checks. Proof of income listed on your application may be required if selected.

Have a question about completing the application, contact us at: FNSMealEligibility@sarasotacountyschools.net or call (941) 486-2199