

Cedar Grove Board of Education
520 Pompton Avenue
Cedar Grove, New Jersey 07009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. The **CEDAR GROVE BD OF ED** offers healthy meals every school day at the prices listed below. **Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals and Summer EBT benefits.**

	FULL PRICE			REDUCED PRICE		
	Elementary	Middle	High	Elementary	Middle	High
National School Lunch	\$4.40	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	* N/A	* \$5.40	* \$5.50			
School Breakfast	\$3.25	\$3.25	\$3.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
After School Snack	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Special Milk Program	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Split Session Milk Program	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
* Variable Lunch Price			N/A - Not Applicable			

This packet includes a School Meals and Summer EBT Application and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS AND SUMMER EBT BENEFITS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from **NJ SNAP** or **NJ TANF/WorkFirst-NJ**
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court
- Children participating in their school's Head Start program
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant
- Children may receive free or reduced price meals and Summer EBT benefits if your household's income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 2026-2027			
Household Size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	29,526	2,461	568
2	40,034	3,337	770
3	50,542	4,212	972
4	61,050	5,088	1,175
5	71,558	5,964	1,377
6	82,066	6,839	1,579
7	92,574	7,715	1,781
8	103,082	8,591	1,983
Each additional person:	10,508	876	203

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 haven't been told your children will get free meals and Summer EBT, please call or e-mail your school, homeless liaison or migrant coordinator.
3. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. Use one School Meals and Summer EBT 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 one of your children's schools.
4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS AND SUMMER EBT? 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 your school immediately.
5. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? If available, you are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application. The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Contact your school if you have any questions about the online application.
6. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS AND SUMMER EBT? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals and Summer EBT. Please send in an application.
8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE 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 and Summer EBT if the household income drops below the income limit.
10. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION? You should talk to

Hearing Officer Name: Marie Criscuolo Address: 520 Pompton Avenue, Cedar Grove, NJ - 07009
Phone Number: (973)712-0313 Ext:

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 and Summer EBT.
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, put down 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 some types of income we ask you to report on the application, or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 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, or receive Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance payments, 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 MY FAMILY? List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper, and attach it to your application.
16. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE ANY OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for NJ SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office, call 1-800-687-9512 or go to www.nj.gov/humanservices/njsnap/apply/ways/. You can also contact NJ FamilyCare or Medicaid at 1-800-701-0710 or www.njfamilycare.org for information regarding health insurance for your family. For the WIC Program, call 1-800-328-3838 or go to www.nj.gov/health/fhs/wic.

If you have other questions or need help,
call (973)712-0313 Ext:

Sincerely,

Signature:

Name: Marie Criscuolo

2026-2027 School Meals and Summer EBT Application (Standard & CEP Schools)

Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil).

STEP 1

List ALL children, infants, and students up to and including grade 12. Attach another sheet of paper if you need space for more names.

Do not forget to list infants, children attending other schools, children not in school, and children not applying for benefits. This includes children not related to you in your household. Do not forget to list ALL children in the household.

List ALL children in the household. Do not forget to list infants, children attending other schools, children not in school, and children not applying for benefits. This

Child's First Name	MI	Child's Last Name	School Name (Abbr.)	Grade
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If you checked any of these boxes, please refer to the Application Instruction's Step 1: Part C & Part D.

STEP 2

Do any household members (including you) participate in: SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR?

NO → Go to STEP 3.

YES → Write case number here and proceed to STEP 4.

CASE NUMBER (NOT EBT NUMBER):

Write only one case number in this space.

STEP 3

A. All Adult Household Members (Anyone who is living with you and shares income and expenses, even if not related, including you.)

All Adult Household Members (Anyone who is living with you and shares income and expenses) even if not earning income this year.
List all Adult Household Members (anyone who is living with you and shares income) even if they do not receive income. For each Household Member listed, if they receive income, report total gross income (before taxes and deductions) for each source in whole dollars (no cents) only. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0'. If you enter '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report.

Name of Adult Household Members (First and Last)	Earnings from Work *	How often received?			Public Assistance, Child Support, Alimony	How often received?			Pensions, Retirement, Social Security, SSI, VA Benefits, All Other	How often received?		
		Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	Monthly		Annual	Weekly	Every 2 Weeks		Monthly	Weekly	Every 2 Weeks
	\$				\$				\$			
	\$				\$				\$			
	\$				\$				\$			
	\$				\$				\$			
	\$				\$				\$			

Total Household Members (Children and Adults) _____

Last Four Numbers of Social Security Number of Primary Wage Earner or other Adult Household Member (Required if Applying for School Meals Only) _____

If you DO NOT want Summer EBT Benefits, check this box: ☐

Check if no Social Security Number ☐ OR ~~~~~ How often received? ☐

B. Child Income

Sometimes children in the household earn or receive income.

Include the TOTAL income (before taxes and deductions) received by ALL children listed in STEP 1 here.

STEP 4

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL: Insert school address here

School Meals: "I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal funds, and that school officials may verify (confirm) Summer EBT: "I certify that I am not already receiving Summer EBT Benefits in another State."

A person found guilty of committing an Intentional Program Violation (IPV) will be ineligible to participate in the program as follows: First offense: One year; Second offense: Two years; Third offense: Permanent.

Print Name of Adult Signing the Form

Signature of Adult (Required)

Today's Date _____

Mailing Address (if available)

City

Stat

zip

Phone (optional)

Email (optional)

SOURCES AND EXAMPLES OF INCOME

For additional information on income, please refer to the instructions that accompany this application.

Earnings from Work

- Salary, wages, cash bonuses, tips, commissions
- Net income from self-employment (farm or business)

If you are in the U.S. Military:

- Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA, or privatized housing allowances)
- Allowances for off-base housing, food, and clothing

Sources of Income

Public Assistance/Alimony/Child Support

- Unemployment benefits
- Workers' compensation
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Cash assistance from State or local government
- Alimony payments
- Child support payments
- Veterans benefits
- Strike benefits

Pensions/Retirement/All other sources of income

- Social Security/Disability (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits)
- Private Pensions or disability benefits
- Income from trusts or estates
- Annuities
- Investment income
- Earned interest
- Rental income
- Regular cash payments from outside household
- A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages
- A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits
- A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits
- A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money
- A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust

Examples of Income for Children

OPTIONAL

Children's ethnic and racial identities. This information is kept confidential and may be protected by the Privacy Act of 1974.

We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.

Ethnicity (check one): ☐ Hispanic or Latino (A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish Culture or origin, regardless of race) ☐ Not Hispanic or Latino

Race (check one or more): ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native ☐ Asian ☐ Black or African American ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander ☐ White

Return this completed form to your child's school. *Do not mail, fax, or email completed applications to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

DO NOT FILL OUT

For school use only.

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly $\times 52$, Every 2 Weeks $\times 26$, Twice a Month $\times 24$, Monthly $\times 12$. Do not annualize income to determine eligibility unless more than one income frequency is listed.

Total Income

How often?

Weekly ☐ Every 2 Weeks ☐ 2x/Month ☐ Monthly ☐ Annual ☐

Household size

Categorical Eligibility ☐

Federal Income Eligibility ☐ Free ☐ Reduced ☐ Denied ☐ If Federal Denied: Eligible for NJIE? Yes ☐ No ☐

Determining Official's Signature

Date

Confirming Official's Signature

Date

Verifying Official's Signature

Date

Use of Information Statement

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires that we use information from this application to see who qualifies for free or reduced price meals. We can only approve complete forms. We may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them deliver program benefits to your household. Inspectors and law enforcement may also use your information to make sure that program rules are met. Please be sure to provide the last four numbers of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application. If the adult does not have one, check if no Social Security Number. Applications for a foster child do not need to list a Social Security number. Applications for children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) do not need to list a Social Security number. Some children qualify for free meals without an application. Please contact your school to get free meals for a foster child, and children who are homeless, migrant, or runaway.

The contact information below is solely to file a complaint of discrimination

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

*MAIL: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

FAX: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
EMAIL: program.intake@usda.gov

*Do not mail applications to this address, only complaints of discrimination.

Return completed form to your child's school.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

SHARING INFORMATION WITH MEDICAID or NJ FAMILYCARE

Dear Parent/Guardian:

If your children get federal free or reduced price school meals, they may also be able to get free or low-cost health insurance through Medicaid or NJ FamilyCare. Children with health insurance are more likely to get regular health care and are less likely to miss school because of sickness.

Because health insurance is so important to children's well-being, the law allows us to tell Medicaid and NJ FamilyCare that your children are eligible for free or reduced price meals, *unless you tell us not to*. Medicaid and NJ FamilyCare only use the information to identify children who may be eligible for their programs. Program officials may contact you to offer to enroll your children. Filling out the School Meals and Summer EBT Application does not automatically enroll your children in health insurance.

If you do not want us to share your information with Medicaid or NJ FamilyCare, fill out the form below and send in (Sending in this form will not change whether your children get free or reduced price meals).

☐ No! I DO NOT want information from my School Meals and Summer EBT Application shared with Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Program (NJ FamilyCare).

If you checked no, fill out the form below to ensure that your information is NOT shared for the child(ren) listed below:

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Address: _____

Return this form to your child's school, ONLY if you do NOT wish your information to be shared with Medicaid or NJ FamilyCare.