

CPSD- Food & Nutrition

PUBLIC RELEASE

The Cambridge Public Schools is happy to announce its policy for determining free meals/milk and reduced price meals served under the National School Lunch Program. Free and Reduced Meal Benefits are available to qualifying families. Applications for Free and Reduced Price Meals are mailed home in August prior to the first day of school. Applications are also available on the school website at www.cpsd.us as well as in the cafeteria at any of the schools. You may apply for Free and Reduced Price Meals at any time during the school year. Your children may qualify for Free or Reduced Price Meals if your household income falls within the limits on the chart below. The Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines for July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 are as follows:

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES [Effective from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019]											
Household size	Federal poverty guidelines	Reduced Price Meals—185%					Free Meals—130%				
	Annual	Annual	Monthly	Twice per month	Every two weeks	Weekly	Annual	Monthly	Twice per month	Every two weeks	Weekly
48 Contiguous States, District of Columbia, Guam, and Territories											
1	12,140	22,459	1,872	936	864	432	15,782	1,316	658	607	304
2	16,460	30,451	2,538	1,269	1,172	586	21,398	1,784	892	823	412
3	20,780	38,443	3,204	1,602	1,479	740	27,014	2,252	1,126	1,039	520
4	25,100	46,435	3,870	1,935	1,786	893	32,630	2,720	1,360	1,255	628
5	29,420	54,427	4,536	2,268	2,094	1,047	38,246	3,188	1,594	1,471	736
6	33,740	62,419	5,202	2,601	2,401	1,201	43,862	3,656	1,828	1,687	844
7	38,060	70,411	5,868	2,934	2,709	1,355	49,478	4,124	2,062	1,903	952
8	42,380	78,403	6,534	3,267	3,016	1,508	55,094	4,592	2,296	2,119	1,060
For each add'l family member, add	4,320	7,992	666	333	308	154	5,616	468	234	216	108

If anyone in your household participates in any of the following assistance programs, your children are eligible for free school meals: The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or MA SNAP, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or MA TANF, or The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

Households receiving any of these benefits are only required to provide the recipient's name, their Agency ID, TANF or FDPIR number, student name(s) and adult signature when submitting an application. For up to 30 operating days into the new school year, eligibility from the previous year will continue. When the carry-over period ends, unless the household is notified their children are directly certified* or the household submits an application that is approved, the children must pay full price for school meals.

*No application is required if the district directly certifies a child through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Service's Virtual Gateway as receiving MA SNAP, MA TAFDC, Medicaid or is a foster child. This electronic match process is required by Federal Regulation.

(The Virtual Gateway is an internet portal designed by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to provide the general public, medical providers, community-based organizations and EOHHS staff with online access to health and human services).

All children in these households are eligible for free meal benefits. If you receive a notice of Direct Certification for your child to receive free school meals and there are other children in your household that are not listed, you may contact Anthony Grein at 617-349-6858 to have the benefit extended to them. Households notified of their children's eligibility must contact Anthony Grein at 617-349-6858 or submit in writing if they want to decline the free meal benefits.

Students who are homeless, migrant, runaway or enrolled in an eligible Head Start or pre-kindergarten class are also eligible for benefits. If children or households receive benefits under Assistance Programs or Other Source Categorically Eligible Programs and are not notified by the school of their free meal benefits, the parent or guardian should contact Anthony Grein at 617-349-6858.

Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are categorically eligible for free meals. A foster child may be included as a member of foster family if the foster family chooses to also apply for benefits. If a foster family is not eligible for free or reduced price meal benefits, it does not prevent the foster child from receiving free meal benefits. Note however, that a foster child's free eligibility does not automatically extend to all students in the household.

Application forms for all other households must list the names of all household members, all household income with the amount, source and frequency of the income received by each household member. An adult signature is required along with the last 4 digits of the adult's Social Security Number or the box checked that applicant does not have a Social Security Number. Completed applications should be submitted to Anthony Grein, Assistant Food Service Director, Cambridge Public Schools at 158 Spring Street, Cambridge, MA 02141. Under the provisions of the policy for determining eligibility for free and reduced-price meals, the Assistant Food Service Director, Anthony Grein, will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with the ruling of the determining official, he/she may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis by calling 617-349-6858. If he/she wishes to make a formal appeal, a request either orally or in writing may be made to: Mellissa Honeywood, Director of Food & Nutrition Services, Cambridge Public Schools, 158 Spring Street, Cambridge, MA 02141. If a household member becomes unemployed or if household size changes at any time, the family can file a new application.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.