

APPLICATION FOR EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS
Free or Reduced-Price Schools Meals
State and Federally Funded
Program for Students

2019- 2020
School Year

2.75	Elementary (Gr. K-5) Lunch w/milk
3.00	Middle (Gr. 6-8) Lunch w/milk
3.05	Sr. High (Gr. 9-12) Lunch w/milk
1.40	Elementary (Gr. 1-5) Breakfast w/milk
1.55	Sr. High (Gr. 9-12) Breakfast w/milk
.50	Milk only



Dear Parent/Guardian:

Bloomington Public Schools provide healthy meals each day. Your children may qualify for free meals or reduced-price meals. Due to help from State funds, **reduced price breakfast and lunch is served at no cost.**

We are asking every family to complete an Application For Educational Benefits, please complete the application following the instructions. If you do not qualify or choose to opt out of applying, please check the box on top of the application and write your students' names and schools and sign the application.

Return your completed application to: ISD #271 - ESC Food Service, 1350 W 106th St, Bloomington MN 55431.

You can also apply for free and reduced-price meals online at www.bloomingtonschools.org, select Parents, select Food Services, select Application for Educational Benefits.

A new application must be submitted every year, unless you receive a notification letter from Bloomington Schools stating that your student is approved for free school meals this school year. At public schools, your application also helps the school qualify for additional education funds and discounts.

Who can get free school meals? Children in households participating in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), and foster children can get free school meals without reporting household income. Also, children can get free or reduced-price meals if their household income is within the maximum income shown for the household size. Approval for school meal benefits is good for the school year.

Can foster children qualify for free meals? Yes, foster children who are the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals regardless of household income. Complete an application identifying the children who are in foster care.

I get WIC. Can my children get free meals? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please fill out an application.

May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen? Yes. You or your children do not have to be U.S. citizens for your children to qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

Who should I include as members of my household? Include yourself and all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends). Do not include a person who is economically independent and pays their full pro-rated share of expenses.

What if my income is not always the same? List the amount that you normally get. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get it only sometimes. For seasonal work, write in the total annual income.

Can homeless, runaway and migrant children receive free meals? Yes. Children certified as homeless, runaway or migrant qualify for free meals. Contact our Homeless Liaison at 952-681-6510 to see if your child qualifies for benefits.

Will the information or case number I give be checked? Yes, and we may also ask you to send written proof.

How will the information I provide be kept? Information you provide on the form, and your child's approval for school meal benefits, will be protected as private data. See the back page of the Application for Educational Benefits for more information about how the information is used.

If I don't qualify now, may I apply later? Yes. Please complete an application at any time if your income goes down, your household size goes up, or you start getting SNAP, MFIP or FDPIR benefits.

If you have any other questions or need help, please call 952-681-6570.

Si usted necesita la interpretación de esta información en español, favor de llamar al 952 681 6409. Deje un mensaje y una persona le devolverá la llamada a la brevedad posible.

How to Complete the Application for Educational Benefits

Complete the Application for Educational Benefits form for school year 2019-20 if any of the following applies to your household:

- Any household member currently participates in the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) or
- The household includes one or more foster children (a welfare agency or court has legal responsibility for the child) or
- The total income of household members is within the guidelines shown below (**gross earnings before deductions**, not take-home pay). Do not include as income: foster care payments, federal education benefits, MFIP payments, or value of assistance received from SNAP, WIC, or FDPIR. Military: Do not include combat pay or assistance from the Military Privatized Housing Initiative. The income guidelines are effective from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

Maximum Total Gross Income

Household size	\$ Per Year	\$ Per Month	\$ Twice Per Month	\$ Per 2 Weeks	\$ Per Week
1	23,107	1,926	963	889	445
2	31,284	2,607	1,304	1,204	602
3	39,461	3,289	1,645	1,518	759
4	47,638	3,970	1,985	1,833	917
5	55,815	4,652	2,326	2,147	1,074
6	63,992	5,333	2,667	2,462	1,231
7	72,169	6,015	3,008	2,776	1,388
8	80,346	6,696	3,348	3,091	1,546
Add for each additional person	8,177	682	341	315	158

Step 1: Children

List all infants and children in the household, their school and grade if applicable, and birthdate. Attach an additional page if needed to list all children. Check the box if a child is in foster care (a welfare agency or court has legal responsibility for the child).

Step 2: Case Number

If any household member currently participates in SNAP, MFIP or FDPIR, write in the case number and then go to Step 4. If you do not participate in any of these programs, leave Step 2 blank and continue on to Step 3.

Step 3: Adult and Child Incomes / Last 4 Digits of Social Security Number

- **Child Income.** If any children in the household have regular income, such as SSI or part-time jobs, list the total amount of regular incomes received by all children, and check the box for the frequency: weekly, bi-weekly, twice a month, or monthly. Do not include occasional earnings like babysitting or lawn mowing.
- **Adult income.** Report the names of adult household members and income earned in this section.
 - List all adults living in the household not listed in Step 1, whether related or not, such as grandparents, relatives, or friends.
 - **Gross Earnings from Work.** For each income, check the box to show how often the income is received: weekly, bi-week, twice per month, or monthly.
 - List gross incomes before deductions, not take-home pay. Do not list an hourly wage rate. For adults with no income to report, enter a '0' or leave the section blank. For seasonal work, write in the total annual income.
 - **Self-employment or Farm Income.** List the net income per month or year after business expenses. A loss from farm or self-employment must be listed as 0 income and does not reduce other income.
 - **All Other Gross Income.** List gross incomes before deductions from any other sources, such as SSI, unemployment, child support, public assistance, social security, rental income or annuities.
- **Social Security Number/Total Household Members.** An adult household member must provide the last four digits of their Social Security number or check the box if they do not have a Social Security number. The total household members is reported.

Step 4: Signature and Contact Information

An adult household member must sign the form.

Check the first box to share free or reduced status for other school benefits. If you do not want information to be shared with the state health insurance program, check the corresponding box

Complete one application per household. Mail the completed application to : ISD 271, ESC Food Service, 1350 W 106th St. Bloomington MN 55431, or turn in at your school kitchen or office. You can also apply online at www.bloomingtonschools.org, select Parents, select Food Services, select Application for Educational Benefits.