



Press Release

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National Income Guidelines for Free and Reduced Priced Meals for Schools and the Child and Adult Care Food Program are Announced

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The Michigan Department of Education has announced the release of the household income guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for free and reduced-price meals and free milk through the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, Special Milk, and Child and Adult Care Food programs. The income guidelines are effective now through June 30, 2024.

Schools, childcare centers, adult day care centers, and family day care home sponsors will provide a form for applying for free or reduced-price meals. Only one application is required per household.

Adults, children, or foster children who are recipients of various programs such as Michigan’s family independence program, food assistance program, or food distribution program on tribal lands, or who are enrolled in Head Start, an at-risk afterschool center, or an emergency shelter automatically qualify for free meals. Households with incomes less than or equal to the following guidelines qualify for free or reduced-price meals or free milk.

Total Family Size	Scale for Free Meals or Free Milk		Scale for Reduced Price Meals	
	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly
1	\$18,954	\$1,580	\$26,973	\$2,248
2	\$25,636	\$2,137	\$36,482	\$3,041
3	\$32,318	\$2,694	\$45,991	\$3,833
4	\$39,000	\$3,250	\$55,500	\$4,625
5	\$45,682	\$3,807	\$65,009	\$5,418
6	\$52,364	\$4,364	\$74,518	\$6,210
7	\$59,046	\$4,921	\$84,027	\$7,003
8	\$65,728	\$5,478	\$93,536	\$7,795

For each additional family member add:
 \$6,682 \$557 \$9,509 \$793

An application to a school, childcare center, adult day care center, or family day care home sponsor can be approved if it contains complete documentation of household income, or documentation of current participation in Michigan's family independence program, food assistance program, or food distribution program on tribal lands. Information supplied on an application for free or reduced-price meals may be verified at any time. An appeal procedure is available for households where applications are denied.

Participating schools, childcare centers, adult day care centers, and family day care home sponsors accept applications for free or reduced-price meals at any time during the year. A household may qualify for free or reduced-price meals due to a temporary loss of income, such as a period of unemployment.

If a doctor has determined that a child or adult has a disability, and the disability would prevent the participant from eating the regular school or center meal, the school or center will make reasonable substitutions to meal and/or snacks for participants who are considered to have a disability or medical need that restricts their diet. This is done on a case-by-case basis. The doctor's statement, including prescribed diet and/or substitution, must be submitted to the food service department of the school, childcare facility, or adult care facility.

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