



## 2018-2019 Family Application for Meal Benefits

### Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools offers healthy meals every school day which consist of 1 meat/meat alternate, 1-2 serving of grains, 1-2 serving of meat, at least 1 cup vegetables & fruit and 1 cup milk. All students receive breakfast at no cost to families. Lunch costs \$2.50 for elementary, \$2.50 for middle and \$2.75 for high schools. Your children may qualify for free or reduced price lunch meals for the price of \$.40.

1. Do I need to fill out an application for each child? No. Complete the application to apply for free or reduced price meals. *Use one Meals Benefits 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 your student's school. A paper application is not needed if applying for benefits on the district's website @ [https://www.myschoolapps.com/Home/DistrictRedirect/METRONASHVILLE\\_TN?langid=1](https://www.myschoolapps.com/Home/DistrictRedirect/METRONASHVILLE_TN?langid=1)
2. Who can get free meals? All children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, (TANF) benefits can get meals at no cost. Also, your children can get meals at no cost if your household's gross income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines Letter/Application.
3. Can foster children get free meals? Yes, foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are eligible for no cost meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for no cost meals regardless of income.
4. Can homeless, runaway, and migrant children get free meals? Yes, children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant qualify for free meals. If you haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail Homeless Liaison at 615-259-8729 or the Migrant Coordinator at 615-259-8670 to see if they qualify.
5. Who can get reduced price meals? Your children can get lower priced meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Eligibility Income Chart, shown on the application.
6. Should I fill out an application if I received a letter this school year saying my children are approved for free meals? Please read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. Call the Meal Benefits office at 615-259-8658 or e-mail [meal.benefits@mnps.org](mailto:meal.benefits@mnps.org) if you have questions.
7. My child's application was approved last year. Do I need to fill out another 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 you receive a letter stating that your child is eligible for the new school year.
8. I get WIC. Can my child(ren) get free meals? Children in households participating in WIC may or may not be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please complete a Meal Benefits Application.
9. Will the information I give be checked? Yes and we may also ask you to send written proof.
10. 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 if the household income drops below the income limit.
11. What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application? You should talk to school officials at 615-259-8658. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Kenneth Stark, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, 2601 BRANSFORD AVENUE, NASHVILLE, TN 37204 .
12. May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen? Yes. You or your child (ren) do not have to be U.S. citizens to qualify for free or reduced price meals.
13. Who should I include as members of my household? You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends) who share income and expenses. You must include yourself and all children living with you. If you live with other people who are economically independent (for example, people who you do not support, who do not share income with you or your children, and who pay a pro-rated share of expenses), do not include them.
14. 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.
15. We are in the military. Do we include our housing allowance as income? If you get an off-base housing allowance, it must be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income.
16. My spouse is deployed to a combat zone. Is her combat pay counted as income? No, if the combat pay is received in addition to her basic pay because of her deployment and it wasn't received before she was deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.

If you have other questions or need help, call (615) 259-8658 or email [meal.benefits@mnps.org](mailto:meal.benefits@mnps.org)

*Si necesita ayuda, por favor llame al teléfono: (615) 259-8658*

*Si vous voudriez d'aide, contactez nous au numero: (615) 259-658*

Sincerely,

Director of Nutrition Services