



\$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
\$0.00	Middle School (Gr 6-8) Breakfast w/milk
\$1.55	Sr. High (Gr. 9-12) Breakfast w/milk
\$0.50	Milk only

**2020- 2021  
School  
Year**

**Dear Parents/Guardians:**

Bloomington Public Schools provide healthy meals each day. Your children may qualify for free meals or reduced-price meals. With funding from the State of Minnesota, reduced price breakfast and lunch is served at no cost and kindergarten students receive free breakfast.

**We are asking every family to complete an Application For Educational Benefits.** Please apply online at [www.bloomingtonschools.org](http://www.bloomingtonschools.org) (select District, then Food Services, then Free and Reduced-price Meals, then Application for Educational and Meal Benefits) **OR** complete the paper application. Check your free or reduced eligibility status online after your application is processed or if you receive benefits based on SNAP or MFIP benefits. If you do not qualify or choose to opt out of applying, check the box on top of the application and write your students' names and schools then sign and return the application.

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

**A new application must be submitted every school year** unless a notification letter from Bloomington Schools stating your student is approved for free school meals for the current school year **OR** your eligibility status online is free. At public schools, your application 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.

**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?** It may be. 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. For more information see the back of the Application for Educational Benefits.

**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 2020-21 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, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

### Maximum Total Gross Income

Household size	\$ Per Year	\$ Per Month	\$ Twice Per Month	\$ Per 2 Weeks	\$ Per Week
1	23,606	1,968	984	908	454
2	31,894	2,658	1,329	1,227	614
3	40,182	3,349	1,675	1,546	773
4	48,470	4,040	2,020	1,865	933
5	56,758	4,730	2,365	2,183	1,092
6	65,046	5,421	2,711	2,502	1,251
7	73,334	6,112	3,056	2,821	1,411
8	81,622	6,802	3,401	3,140	1,570
Add for each additional person	8,288	691	346	319	160

### 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

- **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. Report the total number of household members and ensure all household members are listed individually on the application in the child or adult section as applicable.
- **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.** This is usually the money received from working at jobs where a paycheck is received. For each income, check the box to show how often the income is received: weekly, bi-weekly, 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.
  - **Are you Self-Employed or a Farmer?** List the net income per month or year after business expenses. Do not list the same income twice on the application. A loss from farm or self-employment must be listed as 0 income and does not reduce other income.
  - **Any Other Gross Income.** List gross incomes before deductions from all other sources, such as SSI, unemployment, child support, public assistance, social security, rental income or annuities.

**Step 4: Signature and Contact Information** An adult household member must sign the form. If you do not want your information to be shared with Minnesota Health Care Programs, check the "Don't share" box in Step 4. Check all the areas you would like us to share your status for possible fee benefits.

Complete one application per household. Mail the completed application in the enclosed self-addressed envelope or turn in at your school kitchen or office. You can also apply online at [www.bloomingtonschools.org](http://www.bloomingtonschools.org), select District, then Food Services, then Free and Reduced-price Meals, then Application for Educational and Meal Benefits.