



Dear Family,

The pandemic waivers providing free school meals to all students has expired for the 2022-23 school year.

Fargo Public Schools offers healthy meals every school day.

Breakfast prices: \$1.45 (K-5) and \$1.60 (6-12) Lunch prices: \$2.45 (K-5) and \$2.75 (6-12).

Your children may qualify for **free or reduced priced** meals. Reduced price meals for all grades are:

Breakfast is free (30 cents is paid by the state) Lunch price: \$0.40

Who can get free school meals? Children in households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (**SNAP**), the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (**FDPIR**), the Temporary Assistance Program for Needy Families (**TANF**) and foster, homeless, farming migrant workers and runaway children can get free school meals without reporting household income.

Children can also receive free or reduced school meals if their household income is within the maximum income shown for their household size on the Federal Income Chart on the next page.

***For Jefferson, Madison, Ed Clapp and Explorer Academy Students:** These schools participate in the federal program Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) which is available to select schools as a part of the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. All students receive breakfast and lunch at no cost while attending these schools with no need for the household to apply.*

To apply for free school meals, please complete the online application at EZmealapp.com or submit a completed paper application Student Fees Assistance and Benefits Applications (also known as Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application) to the school or mail to Fargo Public Schools Nutrition, 3901 40th Ave S, Fargo ND 58104. A new application must be submitted each year. Your application also helps the school qualify for education funds and additional discounts.

Please see the chart below for income guidelines. Documents such as check stubs or tax forms do not need to be submitted with the application. 3% of the eligible families will be contacted to provide income documentation in early October.

Frequently Asked Questions

- DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD?** No. Use one 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. Applications can be completed online at EZMealApp.com.
- WHO CAN QUALIFY FOR FREE MEALS OR GET OTHER BENEFITS?** All children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) or the Temporary Assistance Program for Needy Families (**TANF**) can receive benefits regardless of your income. Also, your children can get benefits if your household income is within the limits on the Federal Income Chart.
- CAN FOSTER CHILDREN GET BENEFITS?** Yes, foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible. Any foster child in the household is eligible regardless of income.
- CAN HOMELESS, RUNAWAY, AND MIGRANT CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS OR OTHER BENEFITS?** If you haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call the school at 701-446-1153 to see if they qualify.
- SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS AND BENEFITS?** Please read any letter you receive regarding benefits carefully and follow the instructions. If you have questions contact nutrition services at 701-446-1153.
- 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 the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
- I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILD(REN) GET BENEFITS?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for benefits but an application is needed to determine eligibility.
- WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?** Yes, we may also ask you to send written proof of income.

9. **IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER?** Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start receiving SNAP TANF or FDPIR. If you lose your job, your children may be able to get benefits during the time you are unemployed.
10. **WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION?** You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to Jackie Gapp, Business Manager 701-446-1032; Fargo Public Schools, 415 N 4th St, Fargo ND 58102.
11. **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 benefits.
12. **WHOM 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). You must include yourself and all children living with you.
13. **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.
14. **WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE INCLUDE OUR HOUSING ALLOWANCE AS INCOME?** If you receive an off-base housing allowance, it must be included as income.
15. **MY SPOUSE IS DEPLOYED TO A COMBAT ZONE. IS HIS/HER COMBAT PAY COUNTED AS INCOME?** No, if the combat pay is received in addition to their basic pay because of their deployment and it wasn't received before they were deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.

FEDERAL INCOME CHART
For School Year 2022-2023

Household Size	Yearly	Monthly	2x Month	Every 2 Weeks	Weekly
1	\$25,142	\$2,096	\$1,048	\$967	\$484
2	\$33,874	\$2,823	\$1,412	\$1,303	\$652
3	\$42,606	\$3,551	\$1,776	\$1,639	\$820
4	\$51,338	\$4,279	\$2,140	\$1,975	\$988
5	\$60,070	\$5,006	\$2,503	\$2,311	\$1,156
6	\$68,802	\$5,734	\$2,867	\$2,647	\$1,324
7	\$77,534	\$6,462	\$3,231	\$2,983	\$1,492
8	\$86,266	\$7,189	\$3,595	\$3,318	\$1,659
For each additional family member, add	\$8,732	\$728	\$364	\$336	\$168

If you have other questions or need help, call the Nutrition Services Department at 701-446-1153.
Sincerely, Cindy Hogenson, Director of Nutrition Services

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.
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