

New Guidelines Announced For Free And Reduced School Meal Eligibility

By PDE

HARRISBURG, Pa. – The Pennsylvania Department of Education today announced new guidelines for free and reduced-price school meals.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently released federal income eligibility guidelines that schools, and other institutions and facilities, will use to determine eligibility for the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, the Special Milk Program for Children, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Summer Food Service Program.

To apply, households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) need only include the SNAP or TANF case number on their application.

Households enrolled in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) or Medicaid may qualify for free or reduced-price school meals based on income and should complete a Household Meal Benefit Application.

Other households can find more information on the commonwealth's COMPASS website.

The following annual income eligibility guidelines are effective July 1, 2025, until further notice:

Free Meals- 130%					
Household Size:	Annual:	Once/Month:	Twice/Month: (24 pay periods/yr)	Every Two Weeks: (26 pay periods/yr)	Weekly:
One	20,345	1,696	848	783	392
Two	27,495	2,292	1,146	1,058	529
Three	34,645	2,888	1,444	1,333	667
Four	41,795	3,483	1,742	1,608	804
Five	48,945	4,079	2,040	1,883	942
Six	56,095	4,675	2,338	2,158	1,079
Seven	63,245	5,271	2,636	2,433	1,217
Eight	70,395	5,867	2,934	2,708	1,354
For each add'l family member, add:	+\$7,150	+\$596	+\$298	+\$275	+\$138

Reduced Price Meals- 185%					
Household Size:	Annual:	Once/Month:	Twice/Month: (24 pay periods/yr)	Every Two Weeks: (26 pay periods/yr)	Weekly:
One	28,953	2,413	1,207	1,114	557
Two	39,128	3,261	1,631	1,505	753
Three	49,303	4,109	2,055	1,897	949
Four	59,478	4,957	2,479	2,288	1,144
Five	69,653	5,805	2,903	2,679	1,340
Six	79,828	6,653	3,327	3,071	1,536
Seven	90,003	7,501	3,751	3,462	1,731
Eight	100,178	8,349	4,175	3,853	1,927
For each add'l family member, add:	+\$10,175	+\$848	+\$424	+\$392	+\$196

Attention Artists!

By Rep. Joe Emrick

America250PA – the organization planning the state's participation in the United States' 250th anniversary next year – is seeking submissions from local artists for its "Bells Across PA" art series.

Selected artists will execute their designs on a fiberglass bell sculpture. The goal is to place at least one bell in each of the state's 67 counties, but the hope is for many more.

Bells Across PA is open to all Pennsylvania artists and groups from the acclaimed to the amateur. Painters, sculptors, craftsmen, multi-media artists and other wildly creative people are all encouraged to apply. Each commissioned bell will receive one honorarium, regardless of group size. Learn more here <https://links.pahouse-news.com/q-uj55Fx1j0XKtHsUlt-WAjBzs-kj1HkJy7ZcOJYnZ0aW1lc0ByY24uY29tw4gSTUlgvBeoqLbZPbx-MFm0ozJw>.





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