

# Crown Point Central School

P.O. Box 35, 2758 Main Street  
Crown Point, NY 12928  
518-597-4200/3285 Fax 518-597-4121



Home of the Panthers

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**District Treasurer**  
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September 1, 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We want to update you regarding the free school meals that Crown Point Central School has been able to serve to your children since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic in March 2020. At the start of the pandemic, the federal government created a national policy that allowed schools in the country to provide free meals to all students. As of June 30, 2022, this national policy has ended. Though we had hoped this would not be the case, we are moving forward with what is required and want to ensure all families are best prepared for this change in policy. This means there will be a return to the traditional system this school year for Crown Point Central School families, where students receive free, reduced-price, or full-price meals based upon income status. Both free and reduced-price meals will be provided at no charge. To ensure we can provide free or reduced-price meals to as many families as possible, we need families to complete the household Application for Free and Reduced Price Meals as soon as possible.

The ***Application for Free and Reduced Price Meals*** is the most important thing that you can do to prepare for the start of school and it can be found at [www.cpcsteam.org](http://www.cpcsteam.org). We strongly encourage ALL families to submit this form, as it is very important to the district's records and allows us to also waive fees, etc. for those who qualify. In addition, please consider applying for SNAP, the federal nutrition program that provides eligible residents with monthly financial assistance to purchase groceries. Families that receive SNAP qualify for free school meals. More information on applying for SNAP can be found at <https://www.ny.gov/services/apply-snap>.

The food and nutrition department at Crown Point Central School thanks you for your patience during this change and we understand the burden that this will place on many families.

As always, we are grateful for the opportunity to provide nourishing and healthy meals to all Crown Point Central School students so please reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

Best,

Patricia Tourtellot

School Lunch Clerk

*"This is in accordance with federal civil rights law and US Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is [prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity." www.cn.nysed.gov*



## Letter to Parents for School Meal Programs

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Crown Point Central School offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs **\$.50** ; lunch costs **\$2.50**. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. **Beginning July 1, 2019, students in New York State that are approved for reduced price meals will receive breakfast and lunch meals and snacks served through the Afterschool Snack Program at no charge.**

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 Free and Reduced Price School Meals 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: **[name, address, phone number]**.
2. **WHO CAN GET FREE MEALS?** All children in households receiving benefits from **SNAP, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations** or **TANF**, can get free meals regardless of your income. Categorical eligibility for free meal benefits is extended to all children in a household when the application lists an Assistance Program's case number for any household member. Also, your children can get free meals if your household's gross income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Households with children who are categorically eligible through an Other Source Categorically Eligible designation, as defined by law, may be eligible for free benefits and should contact the SFA for assistance in receiving benefits.
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 free meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for free meals regardless of income. Foster children may also be included as a member of the foster family if the foster family chooses to also apply for benefits for other children. Including children in foster care as household members may help other children in the household qualify for benefits. If non-foster children in a foster family are not eligible for free or reduced price meal benefits, an eligible foster child will still receive free benefits.
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 [trish.tourtellot@cpcsteam.org](mailto:trish.tourtellot@cpcsteam.org) to see if they qualify.
5. **WHO CAN GET REDUCED PRICE MEALS?** Your children may be approved as reduced price eligible if your household income is within the reduced-price limits on the Federal Eligibility Income Chart, shown on this letter. Beginning July 1, 2019, students in New York State that are approved for reduced price meals will receive breakfast and lunch meals and snacks served through the Afterschool Snack Program at no charge.
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 got carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school at **518-597-3285** 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 up to the first 30 operating 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.
8. **I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILD(REN) GET FREE MEALS?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please fill out a FREE/REDUCED PRICE MEAL 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. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: **Tara Celotti, CPCS 2758 Main St. Crown Point, NY 12928**
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.
17. **MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR?** To find out how to apply for **SNAP** or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call **1-800-342-3009**.

## 2022-2023 INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

### REDUCED PRICE ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART

Total Family Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two 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
*Each add'l person add	\$ 8,732	\$ 728	\$ 364	\$ 336	\$ 168

**How to Apply:** To get free or reduced price meals for your children carefully complete one application following the instructions for your household and return it to the designated office listed on the application. If you now receive SNAP, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) for any children or participate in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), the application must include the children's names, the household SNAP, TANF or FDPIR case number and the signature of an adult household member. All children should be listed on the same application. If you do not list a SNAP, TANF or FDPIR case number for any household member, the application must include the names of everyone in the household, the amount of income each household member, and how often it is received and where it comes from. It must include the signature of an adult household member and the last four digits of that adult's social security number or check the box if the adult does not have a social security number. **An application for free and reduced price benefits cannot be approved unless complete eligibility information is submitted, as indicated on the application and in the instructions.** Contact your local Department of Social Services for your SNAP or TANF case number or complete the income portion of the application. No application is necessary if the household was notified by the SFA their children have been directly certified. If the household is not sure if their children have been directly certified, the household should contact the school.

**Reporting Changes:** The benefits that you are approved for at the time of application are effective for the entire school year and up to 30 operating days into the new school year (or until a new eligibility determination is made, whichever comes first). You no longer need to report changes for an increase in income or decrease in household size, or if you no longer receive SNAP.

**Income Exclusions:** The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care Development (Block Grant) Fund should not be considered as income for this program.

**Reduced Price Eligible Students: Beginning July 1, 2019, students in New York State that are approved for reduced price meals will receive breakfast and lunch meals and snacks served through the Afterschool Snack Program at no charge.**

In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age or disability

**Meal Service to Children With Disabilities:** Federal regulations require schools and institutions to serve meals at no extra charge to children with a disability which may restrict their diet. A student with a disability is defined in 7CFR Part 15b.3 of Federal regulations, as one who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual, a record of such an impairment or being regarded as having such an impairment. Major life activities include but are not limited to: functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working. You must request meal modifications from the school and provide the school with medical statement from a State licensed healthcare professional. If you believe your child needs substitutions because of a disability, please get in touch with us for further information, as there is specific information that the medical statement must contain.

**Confidentiality:** The United States Department of Agriculture has approved the release of students names and eligibility status, without parent/guardian consent, to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of federal education programs such as Title I and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which are United States Department of Education programs used to determine areas such as the allocation of funds to schools, to evaluate socioeconomic status of the school's attendance area, and to assess educational progress. Information may also be released to State health or State education programs administered by the State agency or local education agency, provided the State or local education agency administers the program, and federal State or local nutrition programs similar to the National School Lunch Program. Additionally, all information contained in the free and reduced price application may be released to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of programs authorized under the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) or Child Nutrition Act (CNA); including the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, the Special Milk Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program and the Special

Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC); the Comptroller General of the United States for audit purposes, and federal, State or local law enforcement officials investigating alleged violation of the programs under the NSLA or CNA.

**Reapplication:** You may apply for benefits any time during the school year. Also, if you are not eligible now, but during the school year become unemployed, have a decrease in household income, or an increase in family size you may request and complete an application at that time.

The disclosure of eligibility information not specifically authorized by the NSLA requires a written consent statement from the parent/guardian. We will let you know when your application is approved or denied.

Sincerely,

Patricia Tourtellot  
School Lunch Verification

**Nondiscrimination Statement:** This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted 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; or
2. **fax:**  
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:**  
[program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Date Withdrew \_\_\_\_\_

F \_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_

**2022-2023 Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals at CPCS**

To apply for free and reduced price meals for your children, read the instructions on the back, complete **only one** form for your household, sign your name and **return it to the address listed below**. Call **(518)597-3285**, if you need help. Additional names may be listed on a separate paper.

**Return Completed Applications to:**

**Crown Point Central School**  
**2758 Main St.**  
**P. O. Box 35**  
**Crown Point, NY 12928**

1. List all children in your household who attend school:

Student Name	School	Grade/Teacher	Foster Child	Homeless Migrant, Runaway
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. SNAP/TANF/FDPIR Benefits:

If anyone in your household receives either SNAP, TANF or FDPIR benefits, list their name and CASE # here. **Skip to Part 4, and sign the application.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CASE #: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Report all income for ALL Household Members (Skip this step if you answered 'yes' to step 2)

**All Household Members (including yourself and all children that have income).**

List all Household members not listed in Step 1 (including yourself) **even if they do not receive income**. For each Household Member listed, if they do receive income, report total income for each source in whole dollars only. If they do not receive income from any other source, write '0'. If you enter '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report.

Name of household member	Earnings from work before deductions <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Child Support, Alimony <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Pensions, Retirement Payments <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Other Income, Social Security <i>Amount / How Often</i>	No Income
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Total Household Members (Children and Adults)

\*Last Four Digits of Social Security Number: XXX-XX-\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_

I do not  
have a  
SS# ☐

\*When completing section 3, an adult household member must provide the last four digits of their Social Security Number (SS#) or mark the "I do not have a SS# box" before the application can be approved.

4. Signature: An adult household member must sign this application before it can be approved.

I certify (promise) that all the information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the information is being given so the school will get federal funds; the school officials may verify the information and if I purposely give false information, I may be prosecuted under applicable State and federal laws, and my children may lose meal benefits.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Ethnicity and Race are optional; responding to this section does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.

Ethnicity: ☐ Hispanic or Latino ☐ Not Hispanic or LatinoRace (Check one or more): ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native ☐ Asian ☐ Black or African American ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Island ☐ White**DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE – FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY**

**Annual Income Conversion (Only convert when multiple income frequencies are reported on application)**  
 Weekly X 52; Every Two Weeks (bi-weekly) X 26; Twice Per Month X 24; Monthly X 12

☐ SNAP/TANF/Foster☐ Income Household: Total Household Income/How Often: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Household Size: \_\_\_\_\_☐ Free Meals ☐ Reduced Price Meals ☐ Denied/Paid





## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

To apply for free and reduced price meals, complete only one application for your household using the instructions below. Sign the application and return the application to \_\_\_\_\_ CPCS \_\_\_\_\_. If you have a foster child in your household, you may include them on your application. A separate application is not needed. Call the school if you need help: (518)-597-3285 Trish Tourtellot. Ensure that all information is provided. Failure to do so may result in denial of benefits for your child or unnecessary delay in approving your application.

### PART 1 ALL HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE STUDENT INFORMATION. DO NOT FILL OUT MORE THAN ONE APPLICATION FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD.

- (1) Print the names of the children, including foster children, for whom you are applying on one application.
- (2) List their grade and school.
- (3) Check the box to indicate a foster child living in your household, or if you believe any child meets the description for homeless, migrant, runaway (a school staff will confirm this eligibility).

### PART 2 HOUSEHOLDS GETTING SNAP, TANF OR FDIPIR SHOULD COMPLETE PART 2 AND SIGN PART 4.

- (1) List a current SNAP, TANF or FDIPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations) case number of anyone living in your household. The case number is provided on your benefit letter.
- (2) An adult household member must sign the application in PART 4. SKIP PART 3. Do not list names of household members or income if you list a SNAP case number, TANF or FDIPIR number.

### PART 3 ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE THESE PARTS AND ALL OF PART 4.

- (1) Write the names of everyone in your household, whether or not they get income. Include yourself, the children you are applying for, all other children, your spouse, grandparents, and other related and unrelated people in your household. Use another piece of paper if you need more space.
- (2) Write the amount of current income each household member receives, before taxes or anything else is taken out, and indicate where it came from, such as earnings, welfare, pensions and other income. If the current income was more or less than usual, write that person's usual income. **Specify how often this income amount is received: weekly, every other week (bi-weekly), 2 x per month, monthly. If no income, check the box.** The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care and Development Block Grant, TANF and At Risk Child Care Programs should **not** be considered as income for this program.
- (3) Enter the total number of household members in the box provided. This number should include all adults and children in the household and should reflect the members listed in PART 1 and PART 3.
- (4) The application must include the last four digits only of the social security number of the adult who signs **PART 4** if Part 3 is completed. If the adult does not have a social security number, check the box. **If you listed a SNAP, TANF or FDIPIR number, a social security number is not needed.**
- (5) An adult household member must sign the application in PART 4.

**OTHER BENEFITS:** Your child may be eligible for benefits such as Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). To determine if your child is eligible, program officials need information from your free and reduced price meal application. Your written consent is required before any information may be released. Please refer to the attached parent Disclosure Letter and Consent Statement for information about other benefits.

### USE OF INFORMATION STATEMENT

Use of Information Statement: The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not submit all needed information, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the primary wage earner or other adult household member who signs the application. The social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

### DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted 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; or
2. **fax:**  
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:**  
[program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEAL APPLICATION FACT SHEET

When filling out the application form, please pay careful attention to these helpful hints.

**SNAP/TANF/FDPIR case number:** This must be the complete valid case number supplied to you by the agency including all numbers and letters, for example, E123456, or whatever combination is used in your county. Refer to a letter you received from your local Department of Social Services for your case number or contact them for your number.

**Foster Child:** A child who is living with a family but who is under the legal care of the welfare agency or court may be listed on your family application. List the child's "personal use" income. This includes only those funds provided by the agency which are identified for the personal use of the child, such as personal spending allowances, money received by his/her family, or from a job. Funds provided for housing, food and care, medical, and therapeutic needs are not considered income to the foster child. Write "0" if the child has no personal use income.

**Household:** A group of related or non-related people who are living in one house and share income and expenses.

**Adult Family Members:** All related and non-related people who are 21 years of age and older living in your house.

**Financially Independent:** A person is financially independent and a separate economic unit/household when his or her earnings and expenses are not shared by the family/household. Separate economic units in the same residence are characterized by prorating expenses and by economic independence from one another.

**Current Gross Income:** Money earned or received at the present time by each member of your household before deductions. Examples of deductions are federal tax, State tax, and Social Security deductions. If you have more than one job, you must list the income from all jobs. If you receive income from more than one source (wage, alimony, child support, etc.), you must list the income from all sources. Only farmers, self-employed workers, migrant workers, and other seasonal employees may use their income for the past 12 months reported from their 1040 Tax Forms.

**Examples of gross income are:**

- Wages, salaries, tips, commissions, or income from self-employment
- Net farm income – gross sales minus expenses only – not losses
- Pensions, annuities, or other retirement income including Social Security retirement benefits
- Unemployment compensation
- Welfare payments (does not include value of SNAP)
- Public Assistance payments
- Adoption assistance
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Survivor's Benefits
- Alimony or child support payments
- Disability benefits, including workman's compensation
- Veteran's subsistence benefits
- Interest or dividend income
- Cash withdrawn from savings, investments, trusts, and other resources which would be available to pay for a child's meals
- Other cash income

**Income Exclusions:** The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care Development (Block Grant) Fund should not be considered as income for this program.

If you have any questions or need help in filling out the application form, please contact:

Name: Trish Tourtellot, School Lunch Verification

Telephone Number: (518)597-3285

## CPCS NOTIFICATION LETTER FOR SCHOOL MEALS

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ :

Your application for free and reduced price meals for your child(ren) has been:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Approved for free meals.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Approved for reduced price meals. **Your child(ren) will receive breakfast and lunch meals at no charge.**
- \_\_\_\_\_ Denied for the following reason(s):
  - \_\_\_ Income over the allowable amount.
  - \_\_\_ Incomplete application. The following information is missing:
  - \_\_\_ Other:

If you do not agree with the decision, you may discuss it with a school official and you have a right to a fair hearing. This can be done by calling or writing the following official:

**Name: Crown Point Central School**  
**Address: 2758 Main St. P. O. Box 35 Crown Point, NY 12928**  
**Phone: 518-597-3285**

You may reapply for benefits at any time during the school year. If you are not eligible now but have a decrease in household income or become unemployed, or have an increase in household size, you may fill out another application at that time.

Sincerely,

Patricia Tourtellot, School Lunch Verification

**Nondiscrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.**

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## ANNUAL NEWS RELEASE - PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Crown Point Central School today announced a free and reduced price meal policy for our district children. Local school officials have adopted the following family eligibility criteria to assist them in determining eligibility:

### 2022-2023 INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS

Free Eligibility Scale						Reduced Price Eligibility Scale					
Free Lunch, Breakfast, Milk						Reduced Price Lunch, Breakfast					
Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly	Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$ 17,667	\$ 1,473	\$ 737	\$ 680	\$ 340	1	\$ 25,142	\$ 2,096	\$ 1,048	\$ 967	\$ 484
2	\$ 23,803	\$ 1,984	\$ 992	\$ 916	\$ 458	2	\$ 33,874	\$ 2,823	\$ 1,412	\$ 1,303	\$ 652
3	\$ 29,939	\$ 2,495	\$ 1,248	\$ 1,152	\$ 576	3	\$ 42,606	\$ 3,551	\$ 1,776	\$ 1,639	\$ 820
4	\$ 36,075	\$ 3,007	\$ 1,504	\$ 1,388	\$ 694	4	\$ 51,338	\$ 4,279	\$ 2,140	\$ 1,975	\$ 988
5	\$ 42,211	\$ 3,518	\$ 1,759	\$ 1,624	\$ 812	5	\$ 60,070	\$ 5,006	\$ 2,503	\$ 2,311	\$ 1,156
6	\$ 48,347	\$ 4,029	\$ 2,015	\$ 1,860	\$ 930	6	\$ 68,802	\$ 5,734	\$ 2,867	\$ 2,647	\$ 1,324
7	\$ 54,483	\$ 4,541	\$ 2,271	\$ 2,096	\$ 1,048	7	\$ 77,534	\$ 6,462	\$ 3,231	\$ 2,983	\$ 1,492
8	\$ 60,619	\$ 5,052	\$ 2,526	\$ 2,332	\$ 1,166	8	\$ 86,266	\$ 7,189	\$ 3,595	\$ 3,318	\$ 1,659
Each Add'l person add	\$ 6,136	\$ 512	\$ 256	\$ 236	\$ 118	Each Add'l person add	\$ 8,732	\$ 728	\$ 364	\$ 336	\$ 168

**SNAP/TANF/FDPIR Households:** Households that currently include children who receive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) but who are not found during the Direct Certification Matching Process (DCMP), or households that currently receive Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) must complete an application listing the child's name, a valid SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR case number and the signature of an adult household member. Eligibility for free meal benefits based on participation in SNAP, TANF or FDPIR is extended to all children in the household. When known to the School Food Authority, households will be notified of their children's eligibility for free meals based on their participation in the SNAP, TANF or the FDPIR programs. No application is necessary if the household was notified by the SFA their children have been directly certified. If the household is not sure if their children have been directly certified, the household should contact the school.

**Other Source Categorical Eligibility:** When known to the School Food Authority, households will be notified of any child's eligibility for free meals based on the individual child's designation as Other Source Categorically Eligible, as defined by law. Children are determined Other Source Categorically Eligible if they are Homeless, Migrant, Runaway, A foster child, or Enrolled in Head Start or an eligible pre-kindergarten program.

If children or households receive benefits under Assistance Programs or Other Source Categorically Eligible Programs and are not listed on the notice of eligibility and are not notified by the School Food Authority of their free meal benefits, the parent or guardian should contact the school or should submit an income application.

**Other Households:** Households with income the same or below the amounts listed above for family size may be eligible for and are urged to apply for free and/or reduced price meals (or free milk). They may do so by completing the application sent home with the letter to parents. One application for all children in the household should be submitted. Additional copies are available at the principal's office in each school. Applications may be submitted any time during the school year to Trish Tourtellot. Please contact CPCS Mian Office at (518)597-3285 with any questions regarding the application process. Households notified of their children's eligibility must contact the School Food Authority if they choose to decline the free meal benefits. Households may apply for benefits at any time throughout the school year. Children of parents or guardians who become unemployed or experience a financial hardship mid-year may become eligible for free and reduced price meals or free milk at any point during the school year.

For up to 30 operating days into the new school year (or until a new eligibility determination is made, whichever comes first) an individual child's free or reduced price eligibility status from the previous year will continue within the same SFA. When the carryover period ends, unless the household is notified that their children are directly certified or the household submits an application that is approved, the children's meals must be claimed at the paid rate. Though encouraged to do so, the SFA is not required to send a reminder or a notice of expired eligibility.

The information provided on the application will be confidential and will be used for determining eligibility. The names and eligibility status of participants may also be used for the allocation of funds to federal education programs such as Title I and National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), State health or State education programs, provided the State agency or local education agency administers the programs, and for federal, State or local means-tested nutrition programs with eligibility standards comparable to the NSLP. Eligibility information may also be released to programs authorized under the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) or the Child Nutrition Act (CNA). The release of information to any program or entity not specifically authorized by the NSLA will require a written consent statement from the parent or guardian.

The School Food Authority does, however, have the right to verify at any time during the school year the information on the application. If a parent does not give the school this information, the child/children will no longer be able to receive free or reduced price meal.

Foster children are eligible for free meal benefits. A separate application for a foster child is no longer necessary. Foster children may be listed on the application as a member of the family where they reside. Applications must include the foster child's name and personal use income.

Under the provisions of the policy, the designated official will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with the ruling of the designated official, he/she may make a request either orally or in writing for a hearing to appeal the decision. The Superintendent, Tara Celotti, whose address is 2758 Main St. Crown Point, NY 12928 has been designated as the Hearing Official. Hearing procedures are outlined in the policy. However, prior to initiating the hearing procedure, the parent or School Food Authority may request a conference to provide an opportunity for the parent and official to discuss the situation, present information, and obtain an explanation of the data submitted in the application or the decisions rendered. The request for a conference shall not in any way prejudice or diminish the right to a fair hearing.

Only complete applications can be approved. This includes complete and accurate information regarding: the SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR case number; the names of all household members; on an income application, the last four digits of the social security number of the person who signs the form or an indication that the adult does not have one, and the amount and source of income received by each household member. In addition, the parent or guardian must sign the application form, certifying the information is true and correct.

**Beginning July 1, 2019, students in New York State that are approved for reduced price meals will receive breakfast and lunch meals at no charge.**

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## NOTIFICATION LETTER FOR DIRECTLY CERTIFIED STUDENTS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your child(ren) has been automatically **approved for free meals** during the 2022-2023 school year. This approval is based on student/household eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and/or Medicaid. **ONLY RETURN THIS LETTER to your child(ren)'s school if you do not want the free school meals.**

Please **DO NOT** fill out an application for free or reduced price meals for the following child(ren):

Student Name	School Name	Grade

If you have student(s) in your household that are not listed above, please contact this office at \_\_\_\_\_. Free meal benefits will be extended to all children residing in the same household.

**If you DO NOT want your student to receive these school meal benefits, please check the box below, sign and return this letter.**

☐ I do not want free meals/milk benefits for my children listed above

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patricia Tourtellot

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**PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT TO RELEASE ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION  
FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS**

Date

Dear Parent/Guardian:

If your child is eligible for free and reduced price meals, he/she also may be eligible for other benefits. To receive these benefits, you must provide written consent to permit school officials to give your name, address, and an indication that your household is eligible for free and reduced price meals, to representatives of certain programs. **Failure to sign a consent statement that will allow disclosure of this information will not affect your child's eligibility or participation in the school meals.**

Some of the programs that may request names and eligibility information to be used to provide benefits, and for which parent/guardian consent is required, include: federal health insurance programs such as Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance program (CHIP), other federal programs, State programs, local health and education programs and other local activities. For example, the disclosure of children's eligibility for free and reduced price meals or free milk to determine eligibility for free text books, free band instruments, holiday baskets, school supplies, etc., or reduced fees for summer school or driver education programs, would require written consent by the child's parent/guardian.

If you wish to provide consent to release information contained in your child's free and reduced price meal application, to receive other benefits, please complete the attached consent statement.

Please call Trish Tourtellot at 518-597-3285 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Patricia (Trish) Tourtellot, School Lunch Verification

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## CONSENT TO RELEASE FREE OR REDUCED PRICE ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION (single programs)

School officials may release information that shows that my child/children are eligible for free or reduced price meals to the following program. I understand that the information will only be provided to this program.

Name of Program: Crown Point Central School

I understand that I will be releasing information that will show my child/children are eligible for free and reduced price meals or free milk. I give consent to release my confidential information for the above named program only.

Child/Children:

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I certify that I am the parent/guardian of the child/children for whom the free/reduced price application was made:

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Updated Civil Rights Information

The attached memorandum includes the Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) complaint processing policy update related to program complaints alleging discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance.

In short, discrimination on the basis of sex in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance includes discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and discrimination on the basis of gender identity. This policy update is consistent with the Supreme Court's decision in *Bostock v. Clayton County*, 140 S. Ct. 1731, 590 U.S. \_\_\_\_ (2020), and applies to prohibitions against discrimination based on sex in all FNS programs. This memorandum will impact the processing of program discrimination complaints, effective immediately. In addition, FNS's Civil Rights Division will update the Nondiscrimination Statement (NDS) and the And Justice for All (AJFA) posters to include gender identity and sexual orientation as protected bases. We understand these changes may impact your operations and we will be available to provide you with technical assistance to make the necessary changes.

All documents, pamphlets, websites, etc. should be updated with the 2022 NDS (included below) as follows:

1. Websites must be updated within 90 days of the date of this memorandum.
2. Documents, pamphlets, brochures, etc., using 2015 NDS language must be updated when current supply on hand is exhausted or by September 30, 2023.
3. All new printing must use the 2022 NDS

AJFA posters currently posted must not be removed until replaced with the new poster. SED will post an update on our website when the new AJFA posters are received. Please contact your program representative with any questions.

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## CPCS MEAL SERVICES TO CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) aim to provide all participating children, regardless of background, with the nutritious meals they need to be healthy. This includes ensuring children with disabilities have an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from the NSLP and SBP.

Federal regulations require schools and institutions to serve meals at no extra charge to those children whose disability restricts their diet in such a way that they cannot fully participate in the food service program without some modification to the foods offered or the scheduled menu. If you believe your child needs substitutions because of a disability, please get in touch with us for further information. You must request meal modifications from the school and provide the school with a medical statement from a State licensed healthcare professional. This medical statement must contain but is not limited to the following:

- Information about the child's physical or mental impairment that is sufficient to allow the school to understand how it restricts the child's diet,
- An explanation of what must be done to accommodate the child's special dietary need,
- The food or foods to be omitted and recommended alternatives, in the case of a modified meal

If you have questions regarding the need for meal modifications, contact Patricia Tourtellot at 518-597-3285 for further information.

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## Updated CPCS Meal Charge and Prohibition Against Meal Shaming Policy

### Purpose:

The goal of the *Crown Point Central School* is to provide student access to nutritious no- or low-cost meals each school day and to ensure that a pupil whose parent/guardian has unpaid school meal fees is not shamed or treated differently than a pupil whose parent/guardian does not have unpaid meal fees.

Unpaid charges place a large financial burden on our school. The purpose of this policy is to insure compliance with federal requirements for the USDA Child Nutrition Program and, and to provide oversight and accountability for the collection of outstanding student meal balances to ensure that the student is not stigmatized, distressed or embarrassed.

The intent of this policy is to establish procedures to address unpaid meal charges throughout the *Crown Point Central School* in a way that does not stigmatize, distress or embarrass students. The provisions of this policy pertain to regular priced reimbursable school breakfast, lunch and snack meals only. The *Crown Point Central School* provides this policy as a courtesy to those students in the event that they forget or lose their money. Charging of items outside of the reimbursable meals (a la carte items, adult meals, etc.) is expressly prohibited.

### I. Policy

**Free Meal Benefit** - Free eligible students will be allowed to receive a free breakfast and lunch meal of their choice each day. A la carte items or other similar items must be paid/prepaid.

**Reduced Meal Benefit** - Reduced eligible students will be allowed to receive a breakfast and a lunch meal of their choice at no charge. A la carte items or other similar items must be paid/prepaid.

**Full Pay Students** - Students will pay for meals at the school's published paid meal rate each day. The charge meals offered to students will be reimbursable meals available to all students, unless the student's parent or guardian has specifically provided written permission to the school to withhold a meal. A la carte items or other similar items must be paid/prepaid.

#### ONGOING STAFF TRAINING:

Staff will be trained annually and throughout the year as needed on the procedures for managing meal charges using the NYSED Webinar or the school's training program.

Staff training includes ongoing eligibility certification for free or reduced price meals.

#### PARENT NOTIFICATION:

Parents/guardians will be notified that a student's meal card or account balance is exhausted and has accrued meal charges within \_\_\_\_\_ days of the charge and then every \_\_\_\_\_ days/weeks thereafter.

#### PARENT OUTREACH:

Staff will communicate with parents/guardians with five or more meal charges to determine eligibility for free or reduced price meals.

School staff will make two documented attempts to reach out to parents/guardians to complete a meal application in addition to the application and instructions provided in the school enrollment packet.

School staff will contact the parent/guardian to offer assistance with completion of meal application to determine if there are other issues within the household causing the child to have insufficient funds, offering any other assistance that is appropriate.

#### MINIMIZING STUDENT DISTRESS:

School will not publicly identify or stigmatize any student on the line or discuss any outstanding meal debt in the presence of any other students.

Students who incur meal charges will not be required to wear a wristband or handstamp, or to do chores or work to pay for meals.

Schools will not throw away a meal after it has been served because of the student's inability to pay for the meal or because of previous meal charges.

Schools will not take any action directed at a pupil to collect unpaid school meal fees.

Schools will deal directly with parents/guardians regarding unpaid school meal fees.



## ONGOING ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATION:

School staff will conduct direct certification with NYSSIS or using NYSED Roster Upload to maximize free eligibility. NYSED provides updated direct certification data monthly.

School staff will provide parents/guardians with free and reduced price application and instructions at the beginning of each school year in school enrollment packet.

Schools using electronic meal application will provide an explanation of the process in the school enrollment packet and instructions on how to request a paper application at no cost.

Schools will provide at least two additional free and reduced price applications throughout the school year to families identified as owing meal charges.

Schools will use administrative prerogative judiciously, only after using exhaustive efforts to obtain a completed application from the parent/guardian only with available information on family size and income that falls within approvable guidelines.

Schools will coordinate with the foster, homeless, migrant, runaway coordinators to certify eligible students. School liaisons required for homeless, foster, and migrant students shall coordinate with the nutrition department to make sure such students receive free school meals, in accordance with federal law.

Students/Parents/Guardians may pay for meals in advance in the Main Office or with a check payable to *Crown Point Central School*. Further details are available on our webpage at [www.cpcsteam.org](http://www.cpcsteam.org). Funds should be maintained in accounts to minimize the possibility that a child may be without meal money on any given day. Any remaining funds for a particular student may/will be carried over to the next school year.

Refunds for withdrawn, and graduating students; a written or e-mailed request for a refund of any money remaining in their account must be submitted. Students who are graduating at the end of the year will be given the option to transfer to a sibling's account with a written request.

Unclaimed Funds must be requested within one school year. Unclaimed funds will then become the property of the *Crown Point Central School* Food Service Program.

BOE Approved:





Office of P-20 Education Policy  
Child Nutrition Program Administration  
89 Washington Avenue, Room 375 EBA, Albany, NY 12234  
(518) 473-8781 Fax: (518) 473-0018  
<http://www.cn.nysed.gov>

Date: June 8, 2018

To: Public School Food Authorities  
Non-Public School Food Authorities  
Charter School Food Authorities

From: Paula Tyner-Doyle, State Director

Subject: **Revised - New York State Legislation: Prohibition Against Meal Shaming**

The 2018-2019 Executive Budget amended New York State Education Law 908 as added by Section 2 of Part B of Chapter 56 of the laws of 2018 ***Prohibition Against Meal Shaming***. Beginning with school year 2018-2019, all public, non-public and charter school food authorities (SFAs) that require students to pay for a school breakfast and/or lunch meal must develop a written plan to ensure that a student whose parent or guardian has unpaid meal charges is not shamed or treated differently than a pupil whose parent or guardian does not have unpaid school meal charges.

The Prohibition Against Meal Shaming plan should be reasonable, well-defined and maintain the integrity and dignity of students and households. This new legislation requires SFAs to provide students with the reimbursable meal of their choice and specifically identifies other prohibited actions to decrease student distress or the embarrassment associated with not having adequate funds to pay for a school meal or having outstanding school meal debt.

SFAs are required to submit their completed plans to the New York State Education Department (SED) electronic mailbox via [cn@nysed.gov](mailto:cn@nysed.gov) by July 1, 2018. After submission of the plan, the SFA must adopt and post the plan on its school's website.

SFAs must also demonstrate that all applicable staff are trained and fully understand how to properly implement the SFA policy. SED has developed a comprehensive webinar and corresponding guidance materials to assist SFAs to train their school personnel. The webinar will be posted on [www.cn.nysed.gov](http://www.cn.nysed.gov) and links will be provided for SFAs to access the webinar and resources. SED staff is also available to provide technical assistance for SFAs that need additional guidance to help affected parents or guardians qualify their children for free or reduced price meals, if applicable.

The new State plan has several of the same or similar requirements as the federal National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Unpaid Meal Charge policy that took effect July 1, 2017. SFAs may opt to amend this policy to include the new State criteria or can develop a separate State specific plan. SED has also created a template plan that SFAs can use to meet both the State and federal requirements. The template can be accessed [here](#). This template is an example and is intended to serve as an illustration of best practices in developing a meal shaming policy in accordance with federal and state statutes, rules and regulations. This information is provided as general guidance and best practices and does not

supersede the relevant laws, rules and regulations that apply. Should you have specific questions about the application of the specific laws, you should seek the advice of legal counsel.

The following is the specific criteria that is required to be included in the plan, but is not limited to:

1. A statement that the school or school district shall provide the student with the student's choice of a reimbursable meal, if the student requests one. Charging of items outside of the reimbursable meals (i.e., a la carte items, adult meals, etc.) is expressly prohibited.
2. A procedure to allow parents and guardians to indicate to the SFA that they would not want their child to charge a meal upon request.
3. An explanation of how foodservice and school staff will be trained to ensure that the school's policy is implemented correctly and consistently.
4. A process to provide affected parents or guardians assistance to establish eligibility for reduced price or free meals for eligible children.
5. A notification procedure that the SFA will use to inform the parent or guardian that their child's account balance is exhausted and unpaid meal charges are due. The notification may include a repayment schedule, but the school cannot charge any interest or fees in connection with the meals charged. Convenience fees associated with the use of the school's secure on-line payment system i.e. MySchoolBucks, PayPams, etc. continue to be allowable.
6. A communication procedure to encourage eligible families to enroll children for free or reduced price meals that includes a process for determining eligibility when a student owes money for five or more meals, wherein the SFA shall:
  - Make every attempt to determine if a student is directly certified and eligible for free meals
  - In addition to sending home the income application at the beginning of the year, make two additional attempts to encourage the parent or guardian to complete an income application on behalf of the child
  - Contact the parent or guardian to offer assistance to complete the application and to determine if there are other factors of why the child does not have sufficient food or funds to purchase a meal and offer other assistance as appropriate
7. A clear explanation of the procedures designed to decrease student distress or embarrassment that identifies the following prohibited actions:
  - Announcing or publicizing the names of children with unpaid meal charges
  - Sending clearly marked notices home with children who have an outstanding balance

- Using hand stamps, wristbands, stickers, or other physical markers to identify children with outstanding meal charges
  - Requiring children with unpaid meal charges to do chores or other work
  - Throwing a child's meal in the trash
  - Take any action directed at the student to collect unpaid meal charges
  - Discuss any outstanding meal debt in the presence of other students
  - Serving alternate meals (i.e., cheese sandwich)
  - Using a debt collector
8. Establish a process to ensure all eligible students are identified as eligible for free or reduced price meals by:
- Maximizing the use of Statewide Direct Certification (DCMP) by accessing the DCMP data. NYSED provides updated DCMP data monthly. SFAs may consider the effective date of eligibility for free school meals benefits to be the date of the automated data matching file which first identifies the child as eligible. See SP51-2014: Eligibility Effective Date for Directly Certified Students for more details.
  - Providing a copy of the income application in each student's enrollment packet and/ or include written instructions of how to access and complete an on-line version of the application or to request a paper application at no cost. Clearly instruct parents/guardians that they are not required to complete the application if they have already been or are eligible to be directly certified.
  - Encourage families to apply for free and reduced price meals and provide materials in a language and at a reading level families can understand. SFAs may establish the date of an application's submission as the effective date of eligibility.
  - Establish procedures to coordinate with the school liaisons to ensure all migrant, foster, homeless and runaway children are immediately certified for free meals.
  - In extenuating circumstances, the SFA may complete an application on behalf of a child given sufficient cause and backup documentation supporting the child's eligibility. See federal regulations 7 CFR, Part 245.6 (d) for additional guidance regarding administrative prerogative.

## Additional Eligibility Requirements and Recommendations:

- SFAs **MUST** provide 30 day carryover of eligibility for free and reduced price students from the previous school year during the first 30 operating days of a new school year, or until a new eligibility determination is made, whichever is first.
- Students transferring from a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or Provision 2 (P2) participating school to a non-participating school **MUST** be provided 30 days free eligibility or until a new eligibility determination is made, whichever comes first.
- SFAs should accept the free and reduced price eligibility from transfer students.
- SFAs should maximize the use of CEP and P2 where appropriate.
- At the discretion of the SFA, the non-profit school food service account funds may be used to lower or eliminate the reduced price meal cost to the student.

The Prohibition Against Meal Shaming legislation does not intend to allow for the unlimited accrual of debt. SFAs must include a clear explanation in their plan describing the collection procedures that will be implemented to recoup unpaid meal charges. The SFAs procedures shall be directed to the parent or guardian and if possible should provide repayment options. SFAs cannot use a debt collector as defined in section eight hundred three of the federal consumer credit protection act, 15 U.S.C. Sec. 1692a to engage in collection activities on behalf of the SFA. The SFA must also ensure that the SFA's non-profit foodservice account is reimbursed for all outstanding meal charges by no later than June 30<sup>th</sup> of each school year.

Funds used to reimburse the foodservice account must be taken from a non-federal source such as the school's general fund. All funds recouped after the non-profit foodservice account is made whole should be deposited into the general fund or other account used to replenish the school foodservice account. The SFA must maintain adequate documentation to substantiate the transfer of funds for the equivalent of all unpaid meal debt to the school food service account each year.

For additional guidance, refer to USDA's web page "School Meals – Unpaid Meal Charges" at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/unpaid-meal-charges>.

### Unpaid Meal Charges Policy Guidance

- [SP 23-2017](#): Unpaid Meal Charges: Guidance and Q&A
- [SP 47-2016](#): Unpaid Meal Charges: Clarification on Collection of Delinquent Meal Payments
- [SP 46-2016](#): Unpaid Meal Charges: Local Meal Charge Policies

### Other Relevant Policy Guidance

- [SP 51-2016](#): Ensuring Year-long Eligibility in the School Lunch and Breakfast Programs
- [SP 43-2016](#): Ensuring Access to Free and Reduced Price School Meals for Low-Income Students
- [SP 37-2016](#): Meaningful Access for Persons With Limited English Proficiency (LEP) in the School Meal Programs: Guidance and Q&As
- [SP 51-2014](#): Eligibility Effective Date for Directly Certified Students

- [SP 17-2014](#): Discretionary Elimination of Reduced Price Charges in the School Meal Programs
- [SP 11 CACFP 06 SFSP 11-2011](#): Effective Date of Free or Reduced Price Meal Eligibility Determinations
- [FNS Instruction 113-1](#): Civil Rights Compliance and Enforcement – Nutrition Programs and Activities

### **Handbooks and Guides**

- [2017 Eligibility Manual for School Meals](#)
- [2017 Overcoming the Unpaid Meal Challenge: Proven Strategies from Our Nation's Schools](#)

### **Presentations**

- [Coping with Unpaid Meal Charges \(July 2016\)](#)
- [The Challenges of Unpaid Meals: Proven Strategies from Our Nation's Schools \(February 2016\)](#)

### **Useful Links**

[Letter: USDA-FNS Undersecretary to Chief State School Offices - Unpaid Meal Charges](#)

#### **Alternative Counting and Claiming Options**

- [Community Eligibility Provision Resource Center](#)
- [School Meals - Provisions 1, 2, and 3](#)

#### **Limited English Proficiency**

- [FNS Limited English Proficiency Webpage](#)
- [School Meals - Translated Applications](#)

[NYSED Template: Prohibition Against Meal Shaming and Student Charge Policy](#)







# Smart Snacks in School

## USDA's "All Foods Sold in Schools" Standards

USDA recently published practical, science-based nutrition standards for snack foods and beverages sold to children at school during the school day. The standards, required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, will allow schools to offer healthier snack foods to children, while limiting junk food.

The health of today's school environment continues to improve. Students across the country are now offered healthier school lunches with more fruits, vegetables and whole grains. The *Smart Snacks in School* standards will build on those healthy advancements and ensure that kids are only offered tasty and nutritious foods during the school day.

*Smart Snacks in School* also support efforts by school food service staff, school administrators, teachers, parents and the school community, all working hard to instill healthy habits in students.

### Nutrition Standards for Foods

- Any food sold in schools must:

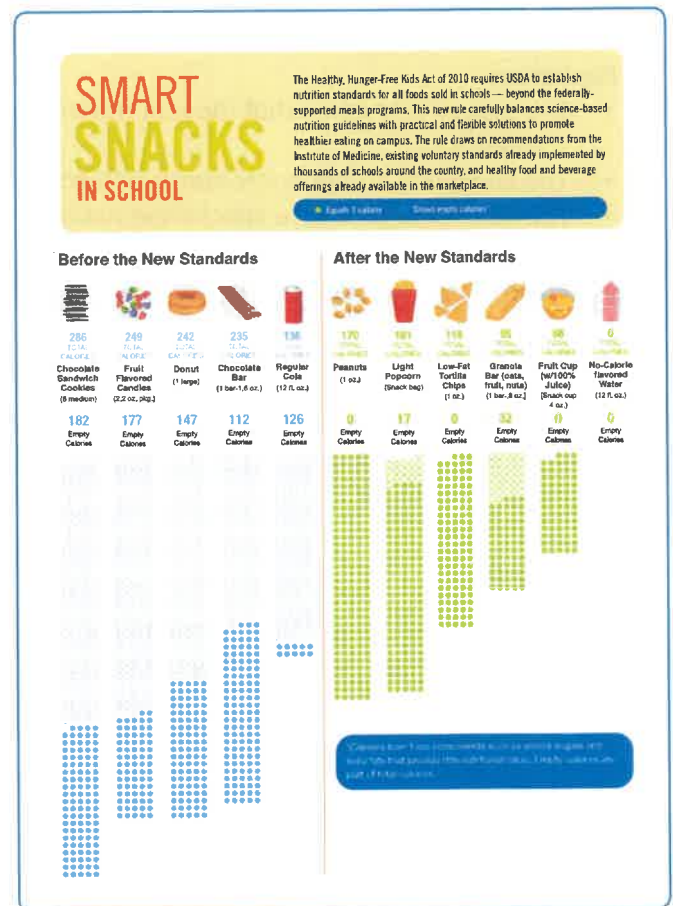
- Be a "whole grain-rich" grain product; or
- Have as the first ingredient a fruit, a vegetable, a dairy product, or a protein food; or
- Be a combination food that contains at least ¼ cup of fruit and/or vegetable; or
- Contain 10% of the Daily Value (DV) of one of the nutrients of public health concern in the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (calcium, potassium, vitamin D, or dietary fiber).\*

- Foods must also meet several nutrient requirements:

- Calorie limits:
  - Snack items: ≤ 200 calories
  - Entrée items: ≤ 350 calories
- Sodium limits:
  - Snack items: ≤ 230 mg\*\*
  - Entrée items: ≤ 480 mg
- Fat limits:
  - Total fat: ≤ 35% of calories
  - Saturated fat: < 10% of calories
  - Trans fat: zero grams
- Sugar limit:
  - ≤ 35% of weight from total sugars in foods

\*On July 1, 2016, foods may not qualify using the 10% DV criteria.

\*\*On July 1, 2016, snack items must contain ≤ 200 mg sodium per item



## Nutrition Standards for Beverages

- **All schools may sell:**
  - Plain water (with or without carbonation)
  - Unflavored low fat milk
  - Unflavored or flavored fat free milk and milk alternatives permitted by NSLP/SBP
  - 100% fruit or vegetable juice and
  - 100% fruit or vegetable juice diluted with water (with or without carbonation), and no added sweeteners.
- **Elementary schools may sell up to 8-ounce portions, while middle schools and high schools may sell up to 12-ounce portions of milk and juice. There is no portion size limit for plain water.**
- **Beyond this, the standards allow additional "no calorie" and "lower calorie" beverage options for high school students.**
  - No more than 20-ounce portions of
  - Calorie-free, flavored water (with or without carbonation); and
  - Other flavored and/or carbonated beverages that are labeled to contain < 5 calories per 8 fluid ounces or ≤ 10 calories per 20 fluid ounces.
  - No more than 12-ounce portions of
  - Beverages with ≤ 40 calories per 8 fluid ounces, or ≤ 60 calories per 12 fluid ounces.

## Other Requirements

- **Fundraisers**
  - The sale of food items that meet nutrition requirements at fundraisers are not limited in any way under the standards.
  - The standards do not apply during non-school hours, on weekends and at off-campus fundraising events.
  - The standards provide a special exemption for infrequent fundraisers that do not meet the nutrition standards. State agencies may determine the frequency with which fundraising activities take place that allow the sale of food and beverage items that do not meet the nutrition standards.
- **Accompaniments**
  - Accompaniments such as cream cheese, salad dressing and butter must be included in the nutrient profile as part of the food item sold.
  - This helps control the amount of calories, fat, sugar and sodium added to foods by accompaniments, which can be significant.

## Public Comment

USDA is seeking comments on these standards. The formal 120-day comment period is open through October 28, 2013. We also want to continue to receive feedback during implementation of the standards, so that we are able to make any needed tweaks to the standards based on real-world experience. Feedback from students, parents, school food staff, school administrators, State agencies and other interested parties is critical to ensuring successful standards.

To find the standards online, simply go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search by the docket number, which is FNS-2011-0019, or you may type in the name of the rule "Nutrition Standards for All Foods Sold in School".

**Comment Online:**  
<http://www.regulations.gov>

**Comment by Mail:**  
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