



**1. Do I have to complete a separate Meal Benefit Application for each child in my household?**

No. Complete one application for all Anne Arundel County Public School students in the household. Return the Meal Benefit Application to the main office of the youngest child's school.

**2. Who can receive free meals?**

All children in households receiving benefits from the Food Supplement Program (FSP) or Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) can receive free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can receive free meals if your household's gross income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.

**3. Can Foster Children receive free meals?**

Yes. Foster Children who 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.

**4. Can homeless, runaway, and migrant children receive free meals?**

Yes. If you have not been told that your child(ren) will receive free school meals this year, complete the application. You may also call the Homeless Liaison in Anne Arundel County Public Schools at 410-222-5326 to ask about benefits.

**5. Who can receive reduced-price meals?**

Your children can receive low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced-price limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.

**6. Should I fill out an application if I received a letter this school year saying my child(ren) are approved for free meals?**

No. You do not need to complete an application. Call 410-222-5900 if you have any questions.

**7. When do meal benefits from 2010/2011 end?**

The last day for free or reduced-price meal benefits from last school year will be Wednesday, October 5, 2011, unless a new 2011/2012 application has been approved by that time.

**8. Can free or reduced-price meal benefits for my child be transferred to Anne Arundel County Public Schools from another county/state?**

No. Complete a Meal Benefit Application for Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

**9. What happens if I do not fully complete the required information on the Meal Benefit Application?**

The Meal Benefit Application will be returned to you for completion. After you complete the application, return it to the main office of the youngest child's school.

**10. When will I be notified if my child qualifies for free or reduced-price meals after I turn in the Meal Benefit Application?**

From the time the Meal Benefit Application is received in the Food and Nutrition Services Office, there could be a 10 school day turn-around time for you to be notified. It is recommended that your child bring either a lunch or money to purchase school meals during the waiting period.

**11. How will I be notified if my child qualifies for free or reduced-price meals after I turn in the Meal Benefit Application?**

The Household Notification Letter, which is sent through the school office, will inform you if your 2011/2012 Meal Benefit Application was approved or denied.

**12. 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.

**13. My spouse is deployed to a combat zone.**

**Is combat pay counted as income?**

No, if the combat pay is received in addition to basic pay because of deployment, and it was not received before deployment, combat pay is not counted as income.

**14. My family needs more help.**

**Are there other programs we might apply for?**

For information and referral for the Food Supplement Program, Temporary Cash Assistance, and medical programs, call 1-800-332-6347.

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