



National School Lunch/Breakfast Program

Dear Parents,

The Anne Arundel County Public School System offers healthy meals every school day. Students who have applied and are eligible will receive meals free or at a reduced-price.

Prices	Breakfast	Elementary Lunch	Secondary Lunch
Regular	\$1.50	\$2.75	\$3.00
Reduced	---	\$.40	\$.40

Unless you have already been notified that you will be receiving free meals, you must complete a Meal Benefit Application and return the form to your youngest child's school. Use one Household Meal Benefit Application for all of the children in your household.

All meals served meet nutrition standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. If a child has been determined by a doctor to have a disability that would prevent the child from eating the regular school meal, schools will make substitutions prescribed by the doctor. If you believe your child needs substitutions because of a disability, please contact us at 410-222-5900 for further information. If a substitution is needed, there will be no extra charge for the meal.

We will let you know when your application is approved or denied. Please keep the notice of approval or denial for your records.

Sincerely,

Jodi Risse
Jodi Risse
Supervisor of Food & Nutrition Services

Verification: Your eligibility may be checked at any time during the school year. School officials may ask you to send papers showing that your child(ren) should get free or reduced-price meals.

Reapplication: If you do not qualify now, you may reapply at any time during the school year.

Fair Hearing: You may talk to the determining official if you do not agree with the decision about your child's(ren's) meal benefit eligibility or the results of verification. You may ask for a fair hearing by calling or writing: Supervisor of Food & Nutrition Services, Anne Arundel County Public Schools, 2666 Riva Rd., Suite 100, Annapolis, MD 21401, Phone 410-222-5900.

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, 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 adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number are not required when you are only applying for foster children, or you list a *Food Supplement Program* or *Temporary Cash Assistance* case number, 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.

Nondiscrimination Statement:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Apply online at: <https://applyformeals.aacps.org>

How to Fill Out this Application

If you need help, call 410-222-5900.

To apply for free or reduced-price meals, complete the form using the instructions below. **Sign the form** and return it to your youngest child's school.

PART 1: Follow instructions on the form. Check the box if any child(ren) is homeless, runaway, or migrant. Call the homeless liaison at 410-222-5326 to ask about benefits.

PART 2: Follow instructions on the form. If applicable, enter the name of the household member who has a *Food Supplement Program (FSP)* or *Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA)* nine digit case number and enter the case number. Continue to fill in Parts 3, 6, and 7.

PART 3: Follow instructions on the form. Complete all requested information for all students enrolled in AACPS. Include the *student's legal first name, middle initial, last name, date of birth, student identification number, school number* (if known—available from the school), and *student income information* in whole dollars only.

If you have foster children, check the *Foster Child* box for each one. If every student on this application is a foster child, skip to Part 6. Otherwise, proceed to Part 4.

PART 4: Enter the names of **all other** people living in your household (including yourself) who are not listed above. Household means a group of related, or non-related, individuals who are living as one economic unit and sharing living expenses to include: rent, clothes, food, doctor bills, and utility bills.

List total gross income, in whole dollars, **before taxes and deductions**. If a household member does not receive an income from any source, write '0'. If you enter '0', or if the space is left blank, you are certifying that there is no income to report.

PART 5: Enter the total number of people living in your household from Parts 3 and 4.

PART 6: Sign and print the name of the adult household member filling out the application. Enter your mailing address and phone number.

Enter the last four digits of the *Social Security Number* of the adult who signs the application. If the adult does not have a Social Security Number, check the **No SS#** box. The last four digits are not needed if you listed a FSP or TCA or if all of the students are foster children.

PART 7: Follow instructions on the form. Check the appropriate box if you consent to share this information or elect to have someone contact you regarding additional benefits.

For answers to Frequently Asked Questions, visit us online at www.aacps.org/nutrition/meal.asp or ask your child's school office for a copy.

2015–2016 School Year

Does your child qualify for free or reduced-priced meals?

(You and the children in your household **do not** have to be U.S. Citizens to qualify.)

A child qualifies for free meals if he or she:

- is a **foster child**
- lives in a household receiving benefits from **Food Supplement Program** (formerly *Food Stamps*) or **Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA)**
- is certified as **homeless, runaway or migrant**

A child **may** also qualify for free or reduced-price meals if he or she:

- is in a household participating in **WIC**
- lives in a household whose **total household income** is the same or less than the amounts in the income chart below

Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines

Household Size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$21,775	\$1,815	\$419
2	29,471	2,456	567
3	37,167	3,098	715
4	44,863	3,739	863
5	52,559	4,380	1,011
6	60,255	5,022	1,159
7	67,951	5,663	1,307
8	75,647	6,304	1,455
For each additional family member add:			
	\$7,696	\$642	\$148

Income to Report

Income from Work
Wages/Salaries/Tips

Additional Income

Pensions/Alimony Retirement Income
Social Security TCA/Child Support

All Other Income

Strike Benefits
Veterans Benefits (VA)
Unemployment Compensation
Worker's Compensation
Net Income from Self Owned Business or Farm Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
Disability Benefits/Interest/Dividends
Net Royalties/Annuities/Net Rental Income
Cash Withdrawn from Savings
Incomes from Estates/Trusts/Investments

Regular Contributions from Persons not Living in the Household

Do not include housing allowance from the Military Housing Privatization Initiative or combat pay.