



Instructions for Schools

Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application and Verification Forms

School year 2008-2009

This packet contains:

Required information that *must* be provided to households:

- Letter to Households
- Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application

Verification of eligibility information materials:

- Notification of Selection for Verification of Eligibility
- Letter of Verification Results

Optional application-related materials that *may* be provided to households:

- Sharing Information With Medicaid/Badger Care
- Sharing Information With Other Programs

The pages are designed to be printed on 8½” by 11” paper. Some pages may be printed front and back. You will need to identify the benefits that are offered in your school, such as afterschool snacks. **[Bold bracketed fields]** indicate where you need to insert school specific information. For example, you must include your district’s no-charge telephone number for verification assistance on the verification materials. These materials have been modified to include Wisconsin’s name for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families which is W-2 cash benefits, the State Children’s Health Insurance Program which is Badger Care, and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). If you make additional changes, you must submit your application package to the Department of Public Instruction for approval.

This prototype application package includes information regarding:

- 1) The exclusion of housing allowance for those in the Military Housing Privatization Initiative.
- 2) Applying for assistance for a child that is homeless, migrant or a runaway.

If these are not pertinent to your school district, please modify as appropriate.

If you have questions, contact:

Department of Public Instruction
School Nutrition Team
125 South Webster Street
P.O. Box 7841
Madison, WI 53707-7841

[Insert School District Letterhead]

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. [Name of School] offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs [\$\$\$]; lunch costs [\$\$\$]. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals; or free milk under the Special Milk Program or the Wisconsin School Day Milk Program. Reduced price is [\$\$\$] for breakfast and [\$\$\$] for lunch.

All schools are required to complete direct certification. Households that are receiving FoodShare, FDPIR or W-2 cash benefits **may not** have to fill out an application. School officials will notify you of your child's eligibility and your child will be provided free benefits, unless you tell the school that you do not want benefits. If you are not notified by _____, submit an application at that time.

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? Children in households getting FoodShare, FDPIR or W-2 cash benefits and most foster children can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free price meals if your household income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines.

3. Public Schools Only: Can homeless, runaway and migrant children get free meals? Please call [school, homeless liaison or migrant coordinator] to see if your child(ren) qualify, if you have not been informed that they will get free meals.

4. Who can get reduced price meals? Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Income Chart, shown on this application.

5. Should I fill out an application if I got a letter this school year saying my children are approved for free or reduced price meals? Please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school at [phone number] if you have questions.

6. 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 an application.

7. Will the information I give be checked? Yes, we may ask you to send written proof.

8. 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 getting FoodShare, FDPIR or W-2 cash benefits or other benefits. If you lose your job, your children may be able to get free or reduced price meals.

9. 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: [name, address, phone number].

10. 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 a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced price meals.

11. 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). You must include yourself and all children who live with you.

12. What if my income is not always the same? List the amount that you normally get. For example, if you normally get \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only got \$900, put down that you get \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get it only sometimes.

13. We are in the military, do we include our housing allowance as income? If your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. All other allowances must be included in your gross income.

If you have other questions or need help, call [phone number].

Si necesita ayuda, por favor llame al teléfono: [phone number].

Si vous voudriez d'aide, contactez nous au numero: [phone number].

Sincerely,
[Signature]

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING

If your household gets FOODSHARE, FDPIR, OR W-2 CASH BENEFITS, follow these instructions:

- Part 1:** List child(ren)'s name, school, grade, and a FoodShare, W-2 cash benefits, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number.
- Part 2:** Check the appropriate box, if any.
- Part 3:** Skip this part.
- Part 4:** Skip this part.
- Part 5:** Sign the form. A Social Security Number is not necessary.
- Part 6:** Answer this question if you choose to.

For Public Schools Only

If you are applying for a child that is HOMELESS, MIGRANT or a RUNAWAY, follow these instructions:

- Check the appropriate box in **Part 2** and contact [your school, homeless liaison, migrant coordinator].
Fill out application by following instructions for **ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS**.

If you are applying for a FOSTER CHILD, follow these instructions:

- Part 1:** Use a separate application for each foster child. List the child's name, school, and grade.
- Part 2:** Skip this part.
- Part 3:** Check the box and list the child's personal use monthly income, if any.
- Part 4:** Skip this part.
- Part 5:** Sign the form. A Social Security Number is not necessary.
- Part 6:** Answer this question if you choose to.

ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS, including WIC households, follow these instructions:

- Part 1:** List each child's name, school, and grade.
- Part 2:** Check the appropriate box, if any.
- Part 3:** Skip this part.
- Part 4:** Follow these instructions to report total household income from last month.
- Column 1–Name:** List the first and last name of **each** person living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends). You must include yourself and all children living with you. Attach another sheet of paper if you need to.
- Column 2 –Gross income last month and how often it was received.** Next to each person's name list each type of income received last month, and how often it was received. For example, *Earnings from work:* List the **gross income** each person earned from work. This is not the same as take-home pay. **Gross income is the amount earned before taxes and other deductions.** The amount should be listed on your pay stub, or your boss can tell you. Next to the amount, write how often the person got it (weekly, every other week, twice a month, or monthly). *All other income:* List the amount each person got last month from welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, (second column) pensions, retirement Social Security (third column), and ALL OTHER INCOME SOURCES (fourth column). In the All Other column, include Worker's Compensation, unemployment, strike benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's benefits (VA benefits), disability benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, and ANY OTHER INCOME. Report net income for self-owned business, farm, or rental income. Next to the amount, write how often the person got it. If you are in the Military Housing Privatization Initiative do not include this housing allowance.
- Column 3–Check if no income:** If the person does not have any income, check the box.
- Part 5:** An adult household member must sign the form and list his or her Social Security Number, or mark the box if he or she doesn't have one.
- Part 6:** Answer this question if you choose to.

FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS FAMILY APPLICATION

Part 1. Children in School (Use a separate application for each foster child)

Names of all children in school (First, Middle Initial, Last)	School Name	Grade	FoodShare, W-2 Cash Benefits or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case # (if any). Skip to Part 5 if you list one of the above.
			Case #
			Case #
			Case #
			Case #
			Case #

DO NOT LIST: Forward or Quest Card numbers; or Medicaid, SSI, W-2 Childcare case numbers. Please fill in Part 4 if you are *not* receiving FoodShare, W-2 cash benefits or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) benefits at this time.

Part 2. Homeless/Migrant/Runaway (For Public Schools Only)

If the child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call [your school, homeless liaison, migrant coordinator at phone #] Homeless Migrant Runaway

Part 3. Foster Child

If this application is for a child who is the legal responsibility of a welfare agency or court, check this box and then list the amount of the child's personal use monthly income: \$ _____. Skip to Part 5.

Part 4. Total Household Gross Income—You must tell us how much and how often

1. Name (List everyone in household) (Example) Jane Smith	2. Gross income and how often it was received Example: \$100/monthly \$100/twice a month \$100/every other week \$100/weekly				3. Check if NO income
	Earnings from work before deductions	Welfare, child support, alimony	Pensions, retirement, Social Security	All Other Income	
	\$200/weekly	\$150/weekly	\$100/monthly	\$ ____ / ____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part 5. Signature and Social Security Number (Adult must sign)

An adult household member must sign the application. If Part 4 is completed, the adult signing the form must also list his or her Social Security Number or mark the "I do not have a Social Security Number" box. (See Privacy Act Statement on the back of this page.)

I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the school will get Federal funds based on the information I give. I understand that school officials may verify (check) the information. I understand that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted.

Sign here: X _____ Print name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Social Security Number: ____ - ____ - _____ I do not have a Social Security Number

Part 6. Children's racial and ethnic identities (optional)

Mark one or more racial identities:

- Asian
- White
- Black or African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Other

Mark one ethnic identity:

- Hispanic or Latino
- Not Hispanic or Latino

Don't fill out this part. This is for school use only.

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 Weeks x 26, Twice A Month x 24 Monthly x 12
 Total Income: _____ Per: Week, Every 2 Weeks, Twice A Month, Month, Year Household size: _____
 Categorical Eligibility: ____ Date Withdrawn: _____ Eligibility: Free ____ Reduced ____ Denied ____ Reason: _____
 Temporary: Free ____ Reduced ____ Time Period: _____ (expires after ____ days)
 Determining Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Confirming Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____ Verifying Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls within the limits on this chart.

FEDERAL INCOME CHART					
For School Year 2008-2009					
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$19,240	\$1,604	\$802	\$740	\$370
2	25,900	2,159	1,080	997	499
3	32,560	2,714	1,357	1,253	627
4	39,220	3,269	1,635	1,509	755
5	45,880	3,824	1,912	1,765	883
6	52,540	4,379	2,190	2,021	1,011
7	59,200	4,934	2,467	2,277	1,139
8	65,860	5,489	2,745	2,534	1,267
Each Additional person:	6,660	555	278	257	129

Privacy Act Statement: This explains how we will use the information you give us.

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 social security number of the 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 FoodShare Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (W-2 cash benefits) 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.

Non-discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

SHARING INFORMATION WITH MEDICAID/BADGER CARE

Dear Parent/Guardian:

If your children get free or reduced price school meals, they may also be able to get free or low-cost health insurance through Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Program (Badger Care). Children with health insurance are more likely to get regular health care and are less likely to miss school because of sickness.

Because health insurance is so important to children's well-being, **the law allows us to tell Medicaid and Badger Care that your children are eligible for free or reduced price meals, unless you tell us not to.** Medicaid and Badger Care only use the information to identify children who may be eligible for their programs. Program officials may contact you to offer to enroll your children (Filling out the Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application does not automatically enroll your children in health insurance).

If you do not want us to share your information with Medicaid or Badger Care, fill out the form below and send in (Sending in this form will not change whether your children get free or reduced price meals).

- No! I DO NOT** want information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application shared with Medicaid or Badger Care.

If you checked no, fill out the form below.

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Address: _____

For more information, you may call **[name]** at **[phone]**.
Return this form to: [address] by [date].

SHARING INFORMATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

To save you time and effort, the information you gave on your Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application may be shared with other programs for which your children may qualify. **For the following programs, we must have your permission to share your information. Sending in this form will not change whether your children get free or reduced price meals.**

No! I **DO NOT** want information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application shared with any of these programs.

Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with **[name of program specific to your school]**.

Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with **[name of program specific to your school]**.

Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with **[name of program specific to your school]**.

If you checked yes to any or all of the boxes above, fill out the form below. Your information will be shared only with the programs you checked.

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

For more information, you may call **[name]** at **[phone]**.
Return this form to: [address] by [date].

WE MUST CHECK YOUR APPLICATION

You must send the information we need, or contact [name] by [date], or your children will stop getting free or reduced price meals.

School: _____ Date: _____

Dear _____:

We are checking your Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application. Federal rules require that we do this to make sure only eligible children get free or reduced price meals. You must send us information to prove that **[names of children]** are eligible.

If possible, send copies, not original papers. If you do send originals, they will be sent back to you only if you ask.

1. If you were getting FoodShare, FDPIR, or W-2 cash benefits when you applied for free or reduced price meals, or at any time since then, send us a copy of one of these:

- FoodShare, FDPIR or W-2 cash benefits Certification Notice that shows dates of certification.
- Letter from FoodShare, FDPIR Office or Welfare Office that says you have gotten FoodShare, FDPIR or W-2 cash benefits.
- **Do not send your EBT card.**

2. If you get this letter for a homeless, migrant or runaway child, please contact [school, homeless liaison, or migrant coordinator] for help.

3. If the child is a Foster Child:

Send us official documentation from the agency sponsoring the child.

4. If you do not get FoodShare, FDPIR or W-2 cash benefits for your children:

A. Write name and Social Security Number of each adult household member below.

Name	Social Security Number (See Privacy Act Statement, page 2)	No Social Security Number
_____	__ __ __ - __ __ - __ __ __ __ __	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	__ __ __ - __ __ - __ __ __ __ __	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	__ __ __ - __ __ - __ __ __ __ __	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	__ __ __ - __ __ - __ __ __ __ __	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	__ __ __ - __ __ - __ __ __ __ __	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	__ __ __ - __ __ - __ __ __ __ __	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	__ __ __ - __ __ - __ __ __ __ __	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	__ __ __ - __ __ - __ __ __ __ __	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Send this page along with papers that show the amount of money your household gets from each source of income.

The papers you send must show the **name** of the person who received the income, the **date** it was received, **how much** was received, and **how often** it was received. **Send information to: [address]...**

Acceptable papers include:

Jobs: Paycheck stub or pay envelope that shows the amount and how often pay is received; letter from employer stating gross wages and how often they are paid; or business or farming papers, such as ledger or tax books.

Social Security, Pensions, or Retirement: Social Security retirement benefit letter, statement of benefits received, or pension award notice.

Unemployment, Disability, or Worker's Comp: Notice of eligibility from State employment security office, check stub, or letter from Worker's Compensation.

Welfare Payments: Benefit letter from welfare agency.

Child Support or Alimony: Court decree, agreement, or copies of checks received.

Other income (such as rental income): Information that shows the amount of income received, how often it is received, and the date received.

No income: A brief note explaining how you provide food, clothing and housing for your household, and when you expect an income.

Military Housing Privatization Initiative: Letter or rental contract showing that your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative.

Timeframe of Acceptable Income Documentation: Please submit papers that show your income at the time that you applied for benefits. If you do not have this information, you may submit papers from time of application up to time of verification.

If you have questions or need help, please call [name] at [phone number]. The call is free. [Toll free or reverse charge explanation].

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Privacy Act 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, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the social security number of all adult household members. The social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a FoodShare Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (W-2 cash benefits) 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.

Non-discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

WE HAVE CHECKED YOUR APPLICATION

School: _____ Date: _____

Dear _____:

We checked the information you sent us to prove that **[names of children]** are eligible for free or reduced price meals and have decided that:

- Your children's eligibility has not changed.
- Starting **[date]**, your children's eligibility for meals will be changed **from reduced price to free** because your income is within the free meal eligibility limits. Your children will receive meals at no cost.
- Starting **[date]**, your children's eligibility for meals will be changed **from free to reduced price** because your income is over the limit. Reduced price meals cost **[\$]** for lunch and **[\$]** for breakfast.
- Starting **[date]**, **your children are no longer eligible** for free or reduced price meals for the following reason(s):
 - ___ Records show that you did not receive FoodShare, FDPIR or W-2 cash benefits.
 - ___ Records show that the child(ren) is not homeless, runaway, or migrant.
 - ___ Your income is over the limit for free or reduced price meals.
 - ___ You did not provide: _____
 - ___ You did not respond to our request.

Meals cost **[\$]** for lunch and **[\$]** for breakfast. If your household income goes down or your household size goes up, you may apply again. If you did not provide proof of current eligibility, you will be asked to do so if you reapply.

If you disagree with this decision, you may discuss it with **[name]** at **[phone]**. You also have the right to a fair hearing. If you request a hearing by **[date]**, your children will continue to receive free or reduced price meals until the decision of the hearing official is made. You may request a hearing by calling or writing to: **[name]**, **[address]**, and **[phone number]**.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Non-Discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.