

HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary

65 McCampbell Road Holmdel, NJ 07733 Tel 732-946-1800 Ext 6018

August 2023

Dear Parent or Guardian:

All students enrolled in New Jersey public schools must be surveyed to determine the percentage of students who qualify for free and reduced price school meals. This survey is necessary even if the school does not participate in any of the federally funded Child Nutrition Programs.

Attached is an application to be used for survey purposes. Please fill out this application as soon as possible, sign it and return it to your child's school.

New Jersey is committed to ensure that all children are enrolled in a health insurance program. Information on your meal application will be shared with NJ Family Care to determine if your children qualify to participate in this state insurance program. If you do <u>not</u> wish to share your information with Medicaid or NJ Family Care you must complete and sign the enclosed information sharing form for Medicaid or NJ Family Care and return it to your child's school. For more information, follow the link to the NJ Family Care website.

Contact your child's school if you have any questions. Thank you for your cooperation.

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/ad-3027.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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

How To Apply for Free and Reduced Price School Meals

Please use these instructions to help you fill out the application for free and reduced price school meals. You only need to submit one application per household, even if your children attend more than one school in the Holmdel Township Public Schools District.

The application must be filled out completely to determine the eligibility of your child(ren) for free or reduced price school meals. Please follow these instructions in order! Each step of the instructions is the same as the steps on your application. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please contact Theresa Zacharewich at (732) 946-1800 x6018 or tzacharewich@holmdelschools.org.

Please use a pen (not a pencil) when filling out the application and do your best to print clearly.

Step 1: List <u>ALL</u> children, infants, and students up to and including grade 12

Tell us how many infants/toddlers, children not in school, and elementary/middle/high school students live in your household. They do NOT have to be related to you to be a part of your household.

Who should I list here? When filling out this section, please include ALL members in your household who are:

- Children age 18 or under AND are supported with the household's income;
- In your care under a formal foster arrangement through a court or state/local agency, or qualify as homeless, migrant, or runaway youth;
- Students attending (regardless of age) Holmdel Township Public Schools.

A) List each child's name. Print each child's name. Use one line of the application for each child. When printing names, write one letter in each box. Stop if you run out of space. If there are more children present than lines on the application, attach a second piece of paper (or a second application if completing electronically) with all required information for the additional children. This also applies to adults in Step 3, "MI" is short for middle initial. Print the first letter of each child's middle name in the box.

If "Yes," write the grade level of the student in the

B) Is the child a student? C) Do you have any foster children? If any children listed are foster children, mark the "Foster Child" box next to the child's name. If "Grade" column to the right. you are ONLY applying for foster children, after finishing Step 1, go to Step 4.

> Foster children who live with you may count as members of your household and should be listed on your application. If you are applying for both foster and non-foster children, go to Step 3. Note: Adopted children are not considered foster children. A foster child is a minor child who has been taken into state custody and placed with a state-licensed adult, who cares for the child in place of their parent or quardian.

D) Are any children homeless, migrant, or runaway? If you believe any child listed in this section meets this description, mark the "Homeless, Migrant, Runaway" box next to the child's name and complete all steps of the application, Homeless, Migrant, Runaway status must be confirmed with the appropriate program staff. If the school district cannot confirm your student's homeless, migrant, or runaway status, then the school district will contact you to complete an income-based application. You may choose to provide income information now in order to prevent the school district from potentially needing to contact you later.

Step 2: Do any household members currently participate in SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR?

If anyone in your household (including you) currently participates in one or more of the assistance programs listed below, your children are eligible for free school meals:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/njsnap/
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dfd/programs/workfirstnj/
- The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).

A) If no one in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:

• Check "No" in Step 2 and go to Step 3.

B) If anyone in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:

- Write a case number for SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR. You only need to provide one case number. If you participate in one of these programs and do not know your case number, contact: https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dfd/counties/
- Go to **Step 4**.

Step 3: List ALL household members and income for each member

How do I report my income?

- Use the lists titled "Sources of Income" & "Examples of Income for Children," on the back side of the application form to determine if your household has income to report.
- Report all amounts in GROSS INCOME ONLY. Report all income in whole dollars. Do not include cents.
 - o Gross income is the total income received **before** taxes and deductions.
 - Many people think of income as the amount they "take home" and not the total, "gross" amount. Make sure that the income you report on this application
 has NOT been reduced to pay for taxes, insurance premiums, or any other amounts taken from your pay.
- Write a "0" in any fields where there is no income to report. Any income fields left empty or blank will also be counted as a zero. If you write "0" or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. If local officials suspect that your household income was reported incorrectly, your application will be investigated.
- Mark how often each type of income is received using the check boxes to the right of each field.

3.A. Report income earned by adults

Who should I list here?

- When filling out this section, please include ALL adult members in your household who are living with you and share income and expenses, even if they are not related and even if they do not receive income of their own.
- Do NOT include:
 - People who live with you but are not supported by your household's income AND do not contribute income to your household.
 - o Infants, children and students already listed in Step 1.

Step 3: List ALL household members and income for each member

1) List adult household members' names.

Print the name of each household member in the boxes marked "Names of Adult Household Members (First and Last)." Include college students, unless they are declared independently on taxes (all college students are considered adults). Do not list any household members you listed in **Step 1**.

2) List earnings from work.

List all income from work in the "Earnings from Work" field on the application. This is usually the money received from working at jobs. If you are a self-employed business or farm owner, you will report your net income. Net income is your income after taxes and deductions have been subtracted.

- What if I have multiple jobs? List each job separately by entering your name and income from each job on a new line. Add an additional sheet of paper if necessary.
- What if I am self-employed? List income from your business as a net amount. This net amount is calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of your business from its gross receipts (revenue). Gross receipts or revenue are all the income earned from the sale of any products or services offered.

If a child listed in Step 1 has income, follow the instructions in Step 3, Part B.

3) List income from public assistance/child support/alimony.

List all income that applies in the "Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony" field on the application. <u>Do not report the cash value of any public assistance benefits NOT listed on the chart</u>. If income is received from child support or alimony, only report court-ordered payments. Informal but regular payments should be reported as "other" income in the next part.

4) List income from pensions/retirement/all other income.

List all income that applies in the "Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income" field on the application,

• What if I receive income from multiple sources in this category? List each source separately by entering your name and income from each source on a new line. Add an additional sheet of paper if necessary.

5) List total household size.

Enter the total number of household members in the field "Total Household Members (Children and Adults)." This number MUST be equal to the number of household members listed in **Step 1** and **Step 3**. If there are any members of your household that you have not listed on the application, go back and add them. It is very important to list all household members, as the size of your household affects your eligibility for free and reduced price meals.

6) Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number.

An adult household member must enter the last four digits of their Social Security Number in the space provided. You are eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social Security Number. If no adult household members have a Social Security Number, leave this space blank and mark the box to the right labeled "Check if no Social Security Number."

3.B List income earned by children

List all income earned or received by children.

List the combined gross income for ALL children listed in **Step 1** in your household in the box marked "Child Income." Only count foster children's income if you are applying for them together with the rest of your household.

• What is Child Income? Child income is money received from outside your household that is paid DIRECTLY to your children. Many households do not have any child income.

Step 4: Contact information and adult signature

All applications must be signed by an adult member of the household. By signing the application, that household member is promising that all information has been truthfully and completely reported. Before completing this section, please also make sure you have read the statements on the back of the application.

- A) Provide your contact information. Write your current mailing address in the fields provided, if this information is available. If you have no permanent address, that is okay. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.
- B) Print and sign your name and write today's date. Print the name of the adult signing the application and that person signs in the box "Signature of adult."
- C) Mail completed application to:
 Holmdel Township Public Schools
 65 McCampbell Road
 Holmdel, New Jersey 07733

Optional

Share children's racial and ethnic identities (optional). On the back of the application, we ask you to share information about your children's race and ethnicity. This field is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price school meals. This information is requested solely for the purpose of determining the State's compliance with Federal civil rights laws, and your response will not affect consideration of your application, and may be protected by the Privacy Act. By providing this information, you will assist us in assuring that this program is administered in a nondiscriminatory manner.

Please return the application directly to your child's SCHOOL. DO <u>NOT</u> mail, fax, or email completed applications or questions about applications to the USDA Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights or your child's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals will be delayed.

Application #:

2023-2024 Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals

Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil).

APPLY ONLINE: https://www.holmdelschools.org/domain/60 **RETURN TO (School/District Name):** Holmdel Township Public Schools **ADDRESS:** 65 McCampbell Road, Holmdel, New Jersey 07733

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SOURCES AND EXAMPLES OF INCOME

For additional information on income, please refer to the instructions that accompany this application.

	Sources of Income	Examples of Income for Children					
Earnings from Work	Public Assistance/Alimony/ Child Support	Pensions/Retirement/ All other sources of income	A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages				
Salary, wages, cash bonuses, tips, commissions Net income from self-employment (farm or business)	Unemployment benefits Workers' compensation Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Cash assistance from State or local	Social Security/Disability (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits) Private Pensions or disability benefits	 A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits 				
If you are in the U.S. Military: Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA, or privatized housing	government - Alimony payments - Child support payments	Income from trusts or estates Annuities Investment income Earned interest	A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money				
allowances)Allowances for off-base housing, food, and clothing	Veterans benefits Strike benefits	Rental income Regular cash payments from outside household	A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust				

OPTIONAL Children's ethnic and racial identities. This information is kept confidential and may be protected by the Privacy Act of 1974.									
We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.									
Ethnicity (check one): Hispanic or Latino (A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish Culture or origin, regardless of race) Not Hispanic or Latino									
Race (check one or more): American Indian or Alaska Native Asian Black or African American Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander White									
Return this completed form to your child's school. *Do not mail, fax, or email completed applications to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.									
DO NOT FILL OUT For school use only.									
$\textbf{Annual Income Conversion:} \ \textbf{Weekly} \times 52, \textbf{Every 2 Weeks} \times 26, \textbf{Twice a Month} \times 24, \textbf{Monthly} \times 12. \ \textbf{Do not annualize income to determine eligibility unless months} \times 26, \textbf{Twice a Month} \times 24, \textbf{Monthly} \times 12. \ \textbf{Do not annualize income to determine eligibility unless months} \times 26, \textbf{Twice a Month} \times 24, \textbf{Monthly} \times 12. \ \textbf{Do not annualize income to determine eligibility unless months} \times 26, \textbf{Twice a Month} \times 24, \textbf{Monthly} \times 12. \ \textbf{Do not annualize income to determine eligibility unless months} \times 26, \textbf{Twice a Month} \times 24, \textbf{Monthly} \times 12. \ \textbf{Do not annualize income to determine eligibility unless months} \times 26, \textbf{Twice a Month} \times 24, \textbf{Monthly} \times 12. \ \textbf{Do not annualize income to determine eligibility unless months} \times 26, \textbf{Twice a Month} \times 24, \textbf{Monthly} \times 12. \ \textbf{Do not annualize income to determine eligibility unless months} \times 26, \textbf{Twice a Monthly} \times 24, \textbf{Monthly} \times 12. \ \textbf{Do not annualize income to determine eligibility unless months} \times 26, \textbf{Twice a Monthly} \times 12. \ \textbf{Do not annualize income to determine eligibility unless months} \times 26, \textbf{Twice a Monthly} \times 12. \ \textbf{Do not annualize income to determine eligibility unless months} \times 26, \textbf{Twice a Monthly} \times 26, Twice a Mo$	ore than one income frequenc	cy is listed.							
Total Income How often? Fe Weekly Every 2 Weekl 2 x Month Monthly Annual Household size Fre	ree Reduced Denied	If Federal Denied: Eligible for NJEIE? Yes No							

Use of Information Statement

Determining Official's Signature

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires that we use information from this application to see who qualifies for free or reduced price meals. We can only approve complete forms. We may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them deliver program benefits to your household. Inspectors and law enforcement may also use your information to make sure that program rules are met.

Date

Confirming Official's Signature

Please be sure to provide the last four numbers of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application. If the adult does not have one, 'Check if no Social Security Number.' Applications for a foster child do not need to list a Social Security number. Applications for children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) do not need to list a Social Security number. Some children qualify for free meals without an application. Please contact your school to get free meals for a foster child, and children who are homeless, migrant, or runaway.

The contact information below is solely to file a complaint of discrimination

Date

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 retailation 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.

Verifying Official's Signature

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/ad-3027.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:

FAX:

EMAIL:

*MAIL: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or program.intake@usda.gov

*Do not mail applications to this address, only complaints of discrimination.

Date

SHARING INFORMATION WITH MEDICAID or NJ FAMILYCARE

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 NJ FamilyCare. 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 NJ FamilyCare that your children are eligible for free or reduced price meals, unless you tell us not to. Medicaid and NJ FamilyCare 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 NJ FamilyCare, 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

1 1	ol Meals Application shared with Medicaid or the State Iren's Health Insurance Program (NJ FamilyCare)				
If you checked no, fill out the for information is NOT shared for the	<u> </u>				
Child's Name:	School:				
Child's Name:	School:				
Child's Name:	School:				
Child's Name:	School:				
Signature of Parent/Guardian:	Date:				
Printed Name:	Address:				

Return this form to your child's school, ONLY if you do NOT wish your information to be shared with Medicaid or NJ FamilyCare.