

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM

Student Nutrition & Culinary Services

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Managing your child's meals has never been easier. Texarkana ISD (and its partner districts: DeKalb ISD, New Boston ISD, Bloomburg ISD, Redwater ISD, McLeod ISD, Linden-Kildare CISD, Leary ISD, and Malta ISD) offers healthy meals every school day. We have introduced online payment methods to make the process more convenient. This means you can easily keep track of your child's meal account and make payments from the comfort of your home. Details about meal prices, the online payment methods, and applications for free or reduced-price lunches can be found on your district's website Student Nutrition & Culinary Services or Child Nutrition page starting July 19th.

Applying for free or reduced-price meals is a simple process. Reduced-price lunches are \$0.40, and reduced-price breakfast is complimentary for the 2024-2025 school year. Students who do not qualify for free or reduced lunch will pay the following prices: Elementary breakfast \$2.35 and lunch \$2.85, Sixth grade through 12th for breakfast \$2.35 and \$2.95 for lunch. If you've received a notification that your student is directly certified for these meals, there's no need to complete an application. **Students at CEP campuses (Texas High, Texas Middle, Dunbar, Highland Park, Spring Lake Park, Nash, Theron Jones, Wake Village, and Westlawn at TISD, Bloomburg ISD, DeKalb ISD, Leary ISD, Linden CISD, and New Boston ISD) will automatically receive free meals, regardless of income, and do not require an application.** If your child does not attend a TISD campus or partner district listed here, please complete one application that includes all students enrolled. Students attending Community Eligibility Provision campuses should be included in the family size even though they are not applying for benefits.

Your privacy is important to us. Paper applications are available at your campus office or the Student Nutrition & Culinary Services office at 1600 Waterall. Remember that paper applications may take longer to reach the determining official and delay benefits processing. Also, note that parents/guardians are responsible for balances until the application is processed. Paper applications can be submitted to the front office secretary at your campus, in person or by mail to TISD Services Building ATTN: Applications, 1600 Waterall St. Texarkana, TX 75501

- **WHO CAN GET FREE MEALS?**

- *Income*—Children can get free or reduced-price meals if a household's gross income is within the limits described in the *Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines* listed on the back of this letter.
- *Special Assistance Program Participants*—Children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Food Distribution Program for Households on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or Medicaid are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.
- *Foster*—Foster children under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- *Head Start, Early Head Start, and Even Start*—Children participating in these programs are eligible for free meals.
- *Homeless, Runaway, and Migrant*—Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant qualify for free meals. If you haven't been told about a child's status as homeless, runaway, or migrant, or you feel a child may qualify for one of these programs, please get in touch with your district's homeless liaison.
- *WIC Recipient*—Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals.
- Can I Apply Online? Yes! The online application has the exact requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. For questions, contact Catherine Durham at 903.792.2231 ext. 2.
- What If I Disagree With the School's Decision About My Application? Talk to school officials. You may also request a hearing by calling or writing to Todd Marshall, Chief Operating Officer, 4241 Summerhill Road, Texarkana, Texas 75503, 903.794.3651 ext. 1020.
- My Child's Application Was Approved Last Year. Do I Need To Fill Out A New One? Yes. Last year's application is only suitable for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. Send in a new application unless the school tells you your child is eligible for the 2024-2025 school year.
- If I Don't Qualify Now, May I Apply Later? Yes. Apply at any time during the school year. A child 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. Families whose household size decreases after applying may reapply.
- What If My Income Is Not Always the Same? List the amount regularly received. If a household member lost a job or had hours/ wages reduced, use current income.
- We Are In The Military. Do We Report Our Income Differently? Basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. Any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, clothing, or Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance payments count as income. If housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include the housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is excluded from income.
- May I Apply If Someone in My Household Is Not a U.S. Citizen? Yes. You, your children, or other household members are not required to be U.S. citizens to apply for benefits.
- Will Application Information Be Checked? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the reported household income.
- I was approved but wish to decline benefits. You may call the determining official.
- My Family Needs More Help. Are There Other Programs We Might Apply For? To find out how to apply for other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or 2-1-1.

If you have other questions or need help, please call.

Sincerely,

Effective July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Household Size	Total Income									
	Annual		Monthly		Twice-Monthly		Bi-Weekly		Weekly	
No. of Household Members	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced	Free	Reduced
1	\$19,578	\$27,861	\$1,632	\$2,322	\$816	\$1,161	\$753	\$1,072	\$377	\$536
2	\$26,572	\$37,814	\$2,215	\$3,152	\$1,108	\$1,576	\$1,022	\$1,455	\$511	\$728
3	\$33,566	\$47,767	\$2,798	\$3,981	\$1,399	\$1,991	\$1,291	\$1,838	\$646	\$919
4	\$40,560	\$57,720	\$3,380	\$4,810	\$1,690	\$2,405	\$1,560	\$2,220	\$780	\$1,110
5	\$47,554	\$67,673	\$3,963	\$5,640	\$1,982	\$2,820	\$1,829	\$2,603	\$915	\$1,302
6	\$54,548	\$77,626	\$4,546	\$6,469	\$2,273	\$3,235	\$2,098	\$2,986	\$1,049	\$1,493
7	\$61,542	\$87,579	\$5,129	\$7,299	\$2,565	\$3,650	\$2,367	\$3,369	\$1,184	\$1,685
8	\$68,536	\$97,532	\$5,712	\$8,128	\$2,856	\$4,064	\$2,636	\$3,752	\$1,318	\$1,876
For each additional family member, add	+\$6,994	+\$9,953	+\$583	+\$830	+\$292	+\$415	+\$269	+\$383	+\$135	+\$192

These guidelines are based on 130% (free) and 185% (reduced) of the federal poverty guidelines and are effective July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

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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> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter 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; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.