FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: FEDERAL FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS & OREGON EXPANDED INCOME GUIDELINES (EIG)

This document provides information for families with students attending a school in Oregon offering federal Child Nutrition Programs such as the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program, as well as information about Oregon's Expanded Income Guidelines for public schools. It is effective July 1, 2026.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn and Sherwood School District offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs $2.65 and $2.90; lunch costs $3.80 and $4.25 for Elementary Schools and Secondary Schools, respectively. Hawk's View Elementary participates in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and provides reimbursable meals for all students at no cost. Your children may qualify for free meals through Oregon's Expanded Income Guidelines for public schools. This packet includes an application for free or reduced price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. WHO CAN GET FEDERAL FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from **Oregon SNAP, The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations or Oregon TANF** are eligible for free meals.
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- Children may receive free or reduced price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on the chart below:

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 2026-27					
Household Size	**Annual**	**Monthly**	**Twice Per Month**	**Every Two Weeks**	**Weekly**
- 1 -	29,526	2,461	1,231	1,136	568
- 2 -	40,034	3,337	1,669	1,540	770
- 3 -	50,542	4,212	2,106	1,944	972
- 4 -	61,050	5,088	2,544	2,349	1,175
- 5 -	71,558	5,964	2,982	2,753	1,377
- 6 -	82,066	6,839	3,420	3,157	1,579
- 7 -	92,574	7,715	3,858	3,561	1,781
- 8 -	103,082	8,591	4,296	3,965	1,983
Each add'l household member add	10,508	876	438	405	203

1A. WHO CAN GET OREGON EIG NO-COST MEALS?

- Children attending public schools in Oregon may receive no-cost meals if your household income is within the limits on the Oregon Expanded Income Guidelines. Your children may qualify for no-cost meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on the chart below:

OREGON EXPANDED INCOME GROUP INCOME CHART For School Year 2026-27					
Household Size	**Annual**	**Monthly**	**Twice Per Month**	**Every Two Weeks**	**Weekly**
- 1 -	47,880	3,990	1,995	1,842	921
- 2 -	64,920	5,410	2,705	2,497	1,249
- 3 -	81,960	6,830	3,415	3,153	1,577
- 4 -	99,000	8,250	4,125	3,808	1,904
- 5 -	116,040	9,670	4,835	4,464	2,232
- 6 -	133,080	11,090	5,545	5,119	2,560
- 7 -	150,120	12,510	6,255	5,774	2,887
- 8 -	167,160	13,930	6,965	6,430	3,215
Each add'l household member add	17,040	1,420	710	656	328

2. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY? Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail

   Ursula Pinto al 503-825-5085 / upinto@sherwood.k12.or.us

3. SOME SCHOOLS OFFER NO COST MEALS TO ALL STUDENTS WITHOUT FILLING OUT AN APPLICATION. HOW DO I KNOW WHICH SCHOOLS DO NOT REQUIRE AN APPLICATION? The following schools are participating in a provision that offers meals at no charge to all students. Children attending the following schools will received no charge meals without completing an application: Hawk's View Elementary.

4. HOW DO I KNOW IF A SCHOOL IS PARTICIPATING IN OREGON EIG? Not all schools are eligible to participate in Oregon EIG. Public schools, public charter schools and Education Service Districts are eligible. The following school are participating in Oregon EIG: Archer Glen, Middleton, Ridges, Sherwood Middle and Sherwood High.

5. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. *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:

   Gia Saporito, Director of Nutrition Services, 21920 SW Sherwood Blvd, Sherwood, OR 97140

6. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A DIFFERENT APPLICATION TO QUALIFY FOR THE OREGON EIG NO-COST MEALS? No, use one meal application for both federal and Oregon EIG benefits.

7. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? No, but please read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact nutrition@sherwood.k12.or.us immediately.

8. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? Yes! You are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application if you are able. The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit https://www.ode.state.or.us/apps/frlapp to begin or to learn more about the online application process. Contact nutrition@sherwood.k12.or.**us** if you have any questions about the online application.

9. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year, through October 14, 2026. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not send in a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for meals.

10. I PARTICIPATE IN WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please send in an application.

11. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report. *(Not applicable to Oregon EIG eligible applications)*

12. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER? Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible if the household income drops below the income limit.

13. 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:

    Gary Bennett: 503-825-5040 | gbennett@sherwood.k12.or.us
    (Not applicable to Oregon EIG eligibility decisions)

14. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply.

15. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make $1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made $900, put down that you made $1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.

16. WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT? Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application, or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a zero (0) in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.

17. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY? Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.

18. WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY? List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper, and attach it to your application. Contact your school to receive a second application.

19. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for Oregon SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 503-945-5600.

If you have other questions or need help, call 503-825-5009.

Sincerely,

Gia Saporito

Director of Nutrition Services